

NASNA 2000

OUR VOICE

The Spare Change Magazine

NORTH AMERICAN STREET NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Conference Hosted by Our Voice
THURSDAY, JULY 20TH TO SUNDAY, JULY 23RD
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA,
EDMONTON

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Our VOICE

THE spare change magazine

june 2000
VOL. 7 NO. 6

A Channel's **Mark Scholz**

**Behind the Eye
 Concludes**

**Head to Head:
 A Crude Debate**



Remembering Joe



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communicating about their
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OUR VOICE SET TO HOST STREET PAPER WORLD

OV STAFF

If you think Our Voice and its vendors are unique in their quests for independence and justice, this coming July 20-23 your eyes will open to a much bigger picture.

Our Voice is preparing to host the 2000 North American Street Newspaper Association Conference in Edmonton next month.

The conference, which will be held at the University of Alberta, expects most of the 48 member publications to be represented. There will also be folks with hopes of starting their own papers in the future in attendance along with an array of social activists who are involved in the street paper movement.

"The street paper movement is fast becoming the most proactive means of addressing the issues of poverty in our society," says NASNA Chairperson Eric Cimone, from Le Journal d'Itineraire in Montreal. Montreal hosted the conference in 1998.

The International Network of Street Papers (INSP) compliments the work of NASNA on the other side of the world, representing another 50 publications in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Between the two organizations a global network has been established that gives an extended credibility to each paper that belongs to this network.

"I believe there are very important connections made and relationships established through a group like NASNA and especially at the conference when people have the chance to come together and share visions and share ideas and challenge each other in a way that is very inspiring," says Lisa Willemse, Editor of Calgary Street Talk and a member of the NASNA executive committee. "Often there is only one street paper in each city and even within the social community of a city a street paper can feel very isolated

because it is so different than a lot of other activism and community advocacy work. NASNA takes away that isolation, it connects street papers to each other and it also has the potential to connect papers more closely to their own communities."

Our Voice is the fifth host of the NASNA conference. The Homeless Grapevine in Cleveland hosted last year, Montreal the year before and Real Change in Seattle along with StreetWise in Chicago have put on past conferences.



Keynote speaker and writer Pat Caponi

Outrun for money

As Our Voice has tried to raise the needed dollars to host the conference, we have met the long train of rejection. Apparently due to the upcoming 2001 World Track and Field Championships which are being hosted in Edmonton as well, any special project money available is being directed that way. Our Voice has had tremendous difficulty coming up with enough funding. The 2001 Games to this point have received in the area of 83 million dollars from all three levels of government. Our Voice is looking for \$5000.

According to conference organizers,

"there is still some hope that the Federal Government, with new interest in homelessness in Canada, will be able to provide some funding to an organization that has been tremendously successful at addressing homelessness."

The organizers are prepared to be rejected again and are planning an "Inner City Steeple Chase", in the spirit of the Track and Field Championships. The fundraiser will pit ITV Weather God Claire Martin against 630 CHED's Ainess of Alm, Leslie Primeau. The event hopes to raise \$5000.

Toronto's Caponi to give Keynote Address

Poverty Activist and writer Pat Caponi will deliver the Keynote address on Saturday July 22. Caponi is the author of the *War at Home*, an intimate portrait into poverty across Canada. She has traveled across Canada many times. Her writing has reflected the voice of poor people and has given real insights into a war that governments and social policy have waged against many Canadians. She is also the author of *Dispatches from the Poverty Line* and *Upstairs in the Crazy House*.

This year's workshops will be focused on: Promotion and Marketing, Urban Journalism, Starting a Street Newspaper, Recruiting and working with vendors, Putting vendors into leadership positions, Dealing with Civil rights abuses and systemic violence, Incorporations, The art of production, Street Papers and the Internet, Fundraising and Resource Development.

OV

Registration forms are available at the Our Voice offices, 428-4001, 10527-96 Street Edmonton or through your vendor.

Deadline to register for 2000 is July 7, 2000. Registration is \$45 for members and \$55 for non members.

SPECIAL FEATURES:

Page 3
Beneath the print:
behind the eye
Conclusion

Page 7
More Homelessness
Who's to blame?

Page 12
Looking back on the life
of Joe Bates

Page 14 & 15
Highlands By-Election
The Candidates Speak

REGULAR FEATURES:

Page 4
InfoPlanet

Page 5
Editorial
Genetically-engineered
Food

Page 9
Head to Head:
A Crude Debate

Page 20
Poetry

Page 23
Vendor of the Month

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS



BENEATH THE PRINT - BEHIND THE EYE

Examining the Media (Conclusion)

Rebecca Lippiatt-Long

Independent media and the search for truth

Independent media is a difficult concept to define. Ideally, media should tell the truth about the world we live in. Realistically, the stories told about the world reflect how the storyteller sees the world. In Canada, most of the media is owned by a few corporations, whose dual roles are to tell Canadians information they need to hear and to provide a strong financial return for their shareholders. They often face the criticism that they are more concerned with their financial transactions than with telling truth. Rather than benefiting social and community interactions, the stories they choose to tell benefit their pocket-books.

Vue Weekly is a newspaper that has recently regained its independence after a long struggle. Ron Garth, the editor commented on corporate control of the media in a recent editorial. "Gone is the ideal of truth and making a difference; it has been replaced with the ideal of turning a profit at any cost."

Independent media usually attempts to fill a gap and reflect the world unhindered by responsibilities to shareholders. Garth states that, "a strong system of independent, alternative voices" is necessary in our society where "corporate interest has taken over the vast majority of Canadian media."

Garth points out "in Canada, we take for granted the freedom of the press. This ideal was mandated into our government, society and culture centuries before we were born, making it difficult for us to realize that a free media independent of government control is a privilege."

section of Edmonton. The show's content is diverse. The hosts interview everyone from the owner of a hot-tub company to street poets.

Scholz sees the role of the Big Breakfast's programming as a place to "relay information to viewers." He calls his own job "a mediator . . . creating a forum for

In the middle of talking about the public service work he does, Scholz stops and says, "don't make me out like I'm a martyr. I'm a normal guy." He laughs again and yells "I'm just a normal guy!"

Apparently uncomfortable with talking about himself, he tries to turn the conversation around and starts talking about Our Voice, which he calls a "truly free paper." He believes the stories we cover are "not propaganda," "not duplicated," and "tell you what newspapers don't." Scholz likes that Our Voice is dedicated to people who are trying to make a living.

Scholz has strong opinions about people who live on the street. "If you want to live on the street, fine, but if people need a hand up, physically, mentally, detox, however, there shouldn't be a limit."

"Health and education [funding] shouldn't be screwed with. It shouldn't be taken from; we should only give to it."

The fact that so much of society's interactions are highly focused on money, concerns Scholz. He questions the fairness of an individual like Bill Gates having so much money and others having so little.

Scholz would like to see society value our human interactions over the financial transactions.

In the interim, Scholz is pleased with what he is able to accomplish with his position. He laughs a lot and is exuberant about his job, the giving spirit of Edmontonians, the enthusiasm of Albertans, and Our Voice.



A Channel's Mark Scholz

interactive discussion in the community," and a "facilitator of information." After he spits out this impressive

"Gone is the ideal of truth and making a difference; it has been replaced with the ideal of turning a profit at any cost."

"Corporate control of the media is no less pernicious than government control; in fact, it is in many ways more execrable, for at least in democratic societies governments are periodically accountable to the electorate, whereas corporations answer to no one but their shareholders, who are also interested in nothing more than making a return on their investment."

Still, media that calls itself independent relies upon advertising sales to survive financially. While it may not be possible for media to be completely free and independent, some sources of media pride themselves on being alternative and serving a local community in a way that their competitors do not.

Very Independent TV?

A-Channel TV's logo is "very independent." They aim to provide television "programming that is real and relevant" for Albertans. I talked to Mark Scholz who is the host of the Big Breakfast, a community based "live newspaper." The Big Breakfast tries to represent a wide cross-

sounding string of words, he laughs hard at himself.

Although A-Channel is independent and family owned, Scholz admits there is a "massive element" of pleasing advertisers in the television industry. He says because there are so many television stations, the "competition is wild" for audiences and advertisers. This has the effect of pushing commercial media to attempt to win the attention of the business community.

While airtime must concede to economics, Scholz tries to use his local celebrity status off the air to benefit causes he believes in. Recently, Scholz, along with co-anchor Steve Antle, CISN's Bruce Bowie and the Edmonton Journal's Nick Lees ran a 42k marathon in Ottawa. Their initial goal was to raise \$50 000; they ended up raising nearly \$100 000 for the Salvation Army.

Scholz says, "this is the true blessing of being in the media." Since he has been at A-Channel, he has been involved in 200-300 different fundraising events. These include being a Big Brother, donating time and energy to diabetes research funding and to the Mental Health Association.

REMEMBER, you have the right to ask questions and to speak up.

Does Canada's news media reflect what you see in your community? Do the news stories help you understand your world more clearly? Who serves your needs better: corporate or locally owned media? Do you feel news is being sacrificed for advertising revenues?

For a critical examination of the role of the media in modern life listen to Counterspin on CJSR FM88 on Tuesdays from 5-6 PM. You can also visit the counterspin website at www.counterspin.com.

To find out exactly how many newspapers are owned by Conrad Black, visit www.hollinger.com.

To read about the real Conrad Black visit www.black-envy.com

THE BILL 11 ROAD SHOW BREAKS THE DIVIDE

Commentary by Theresa McBryan

In Metro Edmonton you do not have to look at street signs or buildings to know what side of the river you are on. The body language of people passing tells you everything. Vending has given me the opportunity to watch hundreds pass by, both uptown and on Whyte. On Jasper, nobody strolls the avenue, window shops, flashes their body decorations or walks their dog (snake, cat, ferret, rabbit or bird) either. People stride, scurry or trudge, intent on destinations. They are uptown people for whom the journey is just a means to an end, not an end to itself.

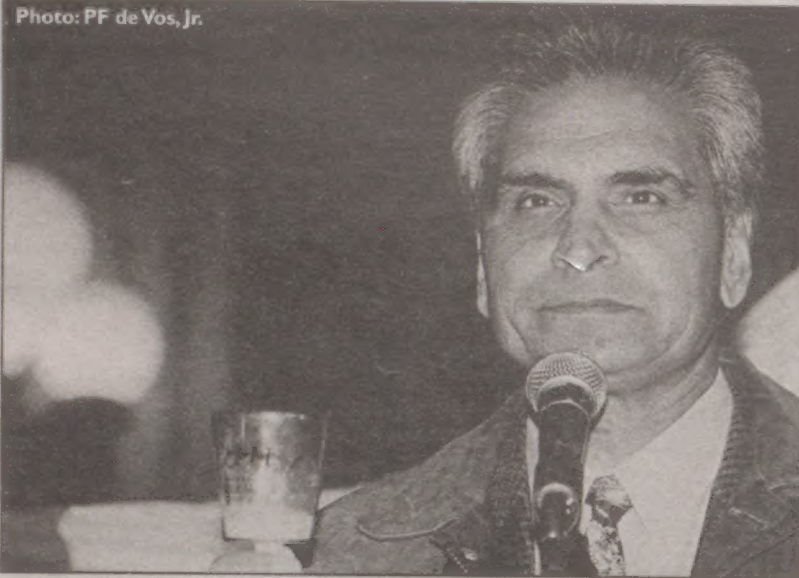
There are lurkers and loiterers on north side streets. The old decaying inner city residential area is just a few blocks east of the artfully planned and esthetically contrived collection of glass towers in the city core. These lurkers stand out as shabby blots of festering human misery in this place of unforgiving clean sterile architecture and are treated with anger, contempt and disgust by the hurrying uptown people.

The other side of Edmonton is a little kinder. Despite the best efforts of the Old Strathcona Business Association to polarize public opinion against street people by designating some, ie. street performers, side walk peddlers as acceptable and others, ie. panhandlers as unacceptable, the loiterers and lurkers do not stand out as blots in an otherwise clean and perfect landscape. They blend into the life

and colour of an interesting and dynamic street.

The "Whyte Avenue loose cannons," as I call them, both street and straight will hardly ever cross the river. Our Voice was forced to hold its yearly fund-raiser on the

Photo: PF de Vos, Jr.



Raj Pannu, the leader of the fight against Bill 11, inspects his troops.

north side of the river this year and lost many of the people it could expect to come to a south side venue. Thus it was, the single thing that surprised me most about the

recent demonstrations on the steps of the Legislature protesting the Medicare Bill 11 was that the "Whyte Avenue loose cannons" crossed the river. There are many divided cities in the world, where people of one kind of temperament gather in one area and others in another. This seems to be a basic truth of the human condition. It gives me hope for the human condition that when the issue is important enough, thousands of both north side "straight arrows" and south side "loose cannons" can come together to speak unequivocally with one voice. Whyte Avenue was a sadly quiet place while the street performers were playing for the dancers on the steps of the Leg. It is a sign of hope when Edmontonians can put their fundamental differences away to deal with a situation that impacts on everyone.

Bill 11 was passed, the issue has changed. Ralph Klein, in case you haven't noticed, we are dancing on your political grave, north side and south side, old and young, comfortable and destitute, careful and carefree. We are dancing together with Calgary, with the suburbs, with the small towns, with the country side, dancing and singing you out of town.

North dances to southern drums, we all hope something good will come of this.

OV

Info Planet

Tamara Schwartzentruber

Because Canada has the unfortunate tendency to follow the United States in many (but thankfully not all) of its policy decisions, it can be wise to keep a close eye on what's happening for poor people south of the border.

Here are a few recent developments:

In Seattle this past April, about 75 homeless people and their friends were once again forced from their temporary homes, as police ejected them from the abandoned Colman school building. The homeless people had taken over the school building after being kicked out of a field near Martin Luther King Jr. Way, where they'd been camping since late March.

This latest event in America's anti-poor people campaign left the people without even temporary shelter, as they were bounced between various branches of government. The encampment in the field, which had been established by homeless advocates to draw attention to the lack of available shelters in Seattle, was first declared illegal by the city, before the school district insisted that they were not allowed to stay in the school building either. The story may be found through the Homeless People's Network Discussion List, at <http://aspin.asu.edu/hpn>.

The National Law Center On Homelessness and Poverty frequently publishes reports documenting attacks on the homeless through the legislative system, as well as initiating legal efforts to ameliorate the situation.

A report released in February studies the problem of access to education for homeless children, who number between 600,000 and 1,000,000 on any given night in the United States. According to the report, the problems most frequently interfering with homeless children's ability to attend school include transportation and residency

requirements - problems especially affecting those who attempt to remain in the school they attended before becoming homeless - as well difficulties in obtaining birth certificates and failure to meet immunization requirements - problems for those trying to transfer to a new school.

This report, along with other news related to homelessness and the law, is available online through the NLCHP's site at <http://www.nlchp.org/>.

Background statistics on child poverty in the United States are available at http://www.childrensdefensefund.org/fairstart_faq.html

The NLCHP's most recent edition of Poverty Law News also provides access to a recent report on race discrimination within the legal system. The report, titled "Justice on Trial: Racial Disparities in the American Criminal Justice System," points out that while it is illegal to target particular races for criminal prosecution, the practice is nonetheless widespread in major American cities.

This is partly due to the widespread practice of "racial profiling:" while some police prosecutions originate in tips or complaints, many result from active investigation by the police - investigation which disproportionately targets minorities. For example, the authors cite several studies of the "driving while black" problem, pointing out that black drivers, especially black males, are far more likely to be stopped by police for routine traffic violations, since police often use this method to initiate searches for other criminal activity including drug possession and trafficking.

While these problems may seem somewhat remote from the Canadian situation because a smaller percentage of our population is constituted by visible minorities, the disproportionately high numbers of Native Canadians in our jails might lead us to speculate that such practices are not uncommon north of the 49th, either. The story cited above can be found at <http://www.povertylaw.org/pln/plncurrent.asp>.

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next month in

the Voice



SPECIAL EDITION: NASNA 2000

Profiles of street papers around the world
History of the street paper movement

Introducing *Coc on the Town*

Excerpts from *Exposure*,
a play by Isabelle Ford

The brutalities of Burma

KILLER TOMATOES

Rebecca Lippiat-Long

If we listened to the advertising rhetoric of biotechnology companies, they sound like the saviours of the 21st century. They claim that genetic engineering will protect the environment, feed an ever expanding world population, taste better, have more nutrients, provide cheap vaccines and vitamins and provide ecological alternatives to petrochemicals.

Or, we could do a little poking around in their green backyards and discover that these products are brought to you by the makers of Agent Orange, PCBs, DDT, and a plethora of herbicides and pesticides.

So, what's a consumer to think?

I might buy some of their arguments, except once again they have snuck in the back door, feeding us their products without asking for our permission.

If you had a chocolate bar today, you likely ate genetically engineered soy beans (soy lecithin). If you had french-fries, the potatoes were possibly altered, and if not the potatoes, almost certainly the canola oil they were fried in. In fact, at least 60% of packaged products on the store shelves contain some genetically engineered (GE) product.

While biotech companies and Health Canada say this will have no effect on your health, no GE plant has ever been tested for human safety. To pass Health Canada's regulations, the company has to show that the "novel food" is not different from the old food. This proof of safety is carried out largely on paper and involves very little, if any, laboratory testing.

Perhaps this is enough, but it goes against every sci-

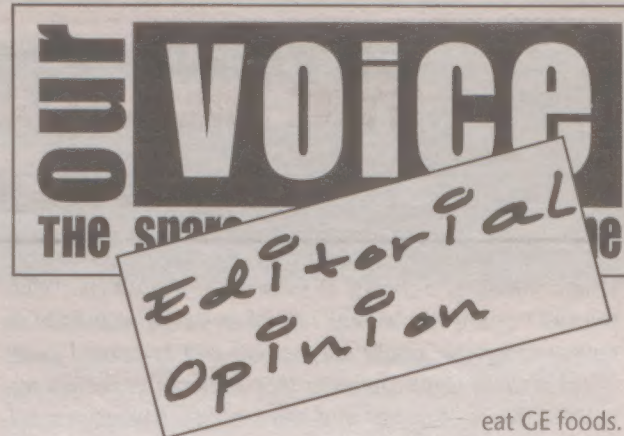
ence lesson every student from elementary to university is taught. Step one: formulate a hypothesis. Step two: test it. Hypothetically, GE foods are safe, but no testing has been done.

So, why should you care?

Because, once again, it's the people who have the least money, power and influence who have the most to lose. While there may be possible health consequences from GE products, there are certainly financial and social repercussions created by biotech companies.

To make GE products and make money, the biotech companies must have plant breeders rights and patents for their products. Seeds that Canadian family farmers have been sowing and selling for generations are now patented. That means that these farmers can no longer legally sell the seed they grow, without paying fees to the patent holders, who are most often seed companies owned by biotech firms. Farmers, barely surviving with current low incomes, are being pushed over the financial edge to join the ranks of the unemployed and welfare recipients.

One of the reasons we have been subject to the pro-biotech campaign is because there are very few countries in the world that want to consume GE foods. Europe has said no, Japan has said no and the biotech companies are scared as hell that Canadians and Americans will say no. Biotech companies have invested millions, if not billions, of dollars into research and development of their products and they need to recoup their investment. They know they may not be able to sell their products to people who can afford to be choosy, but they also know much of the world has no choice about what they eat. One biotech representative at a meeting in Montreal said that he sees a future where regular food will be priced for a niche market for the rich, and the masses will have to



eat GE foods.

While biotech companies feed us persuasive advertising as to how they are going to nourish the world, they neglect to tell us that if they have their way, every time a seed is planted, every time a cotton garment is sold and every time a child opens her mouth to be fed, they will make money. This will not help people who need help, or change the face of poverty, it will only be a different flavour of food at the food bank.

Nobody can afford to be complacent about our food supply. We have alternatives to a future where biotech companies control what goes in our bodies. We can write the government and grocery store manager and demand that food containing GE products is labelled. We can buy food grown locally by a farmer whose name we know. We can join food co-ops or start community gardens and share seeds.

The future of our food supply is too important to be left to those who are proclaiming they will save the world, while with one hand they fill their wallets and with the other they obscure the truth.

OV

THREE LETTERS SAY CHANGE THE GOVERNMENT

Michael Walters

Over the years I have probably written 200 letters to the provincial government. For the most part these letters were related to the issues of the people who sell this magazine. Usually they pertained to specific concerns, but recently I was wondering exactly how this current government feels about poverty generally. I wondered if they realized the magnitude of poverty in this province.

My first step was to call Clint Dunford, the Minister of Human Resources and Employment, which is responsible for social services. I had little luck. He wasn't available and he would not return my calls. So I wrote the Premier's office an email. I tattled on Mr. Dunford. I felt that someone in Mr. Dunford's position should be responding to a project like Our Voice, a project committed to finding solutions to poverty.

About two weeks after my email to the Premier's office, I received a letter from Dunford's Constituency office in Lethbridge stating that his office there has no record of me calling. Unbelievable! Of course there was no record of me calling his Constituency office. I've never known a Conservative politician in this province to step foot in their Constituency office. I had been calling his Legislature office.

Then, I received another letter from the Premier's office stating how he shares my concerns about poverty in Alberta and he would forward my questions about poverty to the appropriate government departments.

Soon after, I received three more letters. The first came from Clint Dunford's office. In his letter he said, "I share your concerns about poverty. For this reason AHRE is committed to ensuring its programs and services are geared to reduce the effects of poverty and to assist individuals to attain self-sufficiency."

He then eluded to the National Child Benefit, the Alberta Child Health Benefit, the minuscule increase in Day Care subsidies and minimum wage and the Alberta Family Employment tax credit. Also included with the let-

ter was a AISH Guide. (Assured Income for the Sincerely Handicapped).

Do I seem this naive? Come on! Is this going to convince me you're trying to deal with poverty honestly?

The next letter came from Iris Evans, the Minister of Child and Family Services. She too vaguely listed her departments initiatives, which include Supports for Independence reform that forces parents into training programs, "so they can take full advantage of our economy". We have heard many stories about these rigid programs that put families in even more jeopardy. We have heard stories of single mothers who are late for these programs for legitimate reasons, but if you are late more than once, you are cut off assistance. Then, because they have no income, they are considered unfit mothers and have their children apprehended.

The next letter came from Stan Woloshyn. In his letter he gave me the usual compliment of the greatness of our work and the concerns he shared with us. He went on to talk about how his department was "particularly active in addressing homelessness", eluding to the need for affordable housing. Yet again these are empty claims. We saw that with the 2000 provincial budget there was actually

less money allocated for housing than in previous years. This is a time when homelessness has reached all time highs and affordable housing has reached all time lows, in Edmonton and in Calgary.

I realize the government does provide much needed funding to many social initiatives in Alberta and even if it is much less than it has been in the past it is still very important and appreciated funding.

However, the complacency that is sweating from the pores of the Torys these days is rancid. Since the beginning of the Klein administration, it has been very clear that little energy is being put into little bits of social and community development, but big public relations has pushed their work more than anything.

The three letters I've received are incredibly weak attempts at appeasing someone they simply consider to be a nuisance. There is such little desire from this government to deal with what the people of Alberta are saying and asking for. They have no more interest in the people they were elected to serve and at the same time so many people are being negatively affected by them.

Our Voice has invited Clint Dunford to come and meet with some of our vendors. This is how he will learn to deal with poverty. He must speak to the people who are poor. He must listen to the people who are poor. Short of that, the only other answer we can give all of our fellow Albertans who live in poverty is that it is time to change the government.

I suspect this is our only hope.

OV



BEYOND ENFORCEMENT

Natasha Laurence

"We of the Edmonton Police Service can leave the responsibility of making a change to someone else or we can 'walk the talk' and lead the way. As much as we would like to believe otherwise, public intoxication and its related issues are profoundly social questions that implicate us in their resolution. We need to step into new territory: beyond zero tolerance, beyond enforcement."

Constable Ernie Pudwill, *Beyond Enforcement*

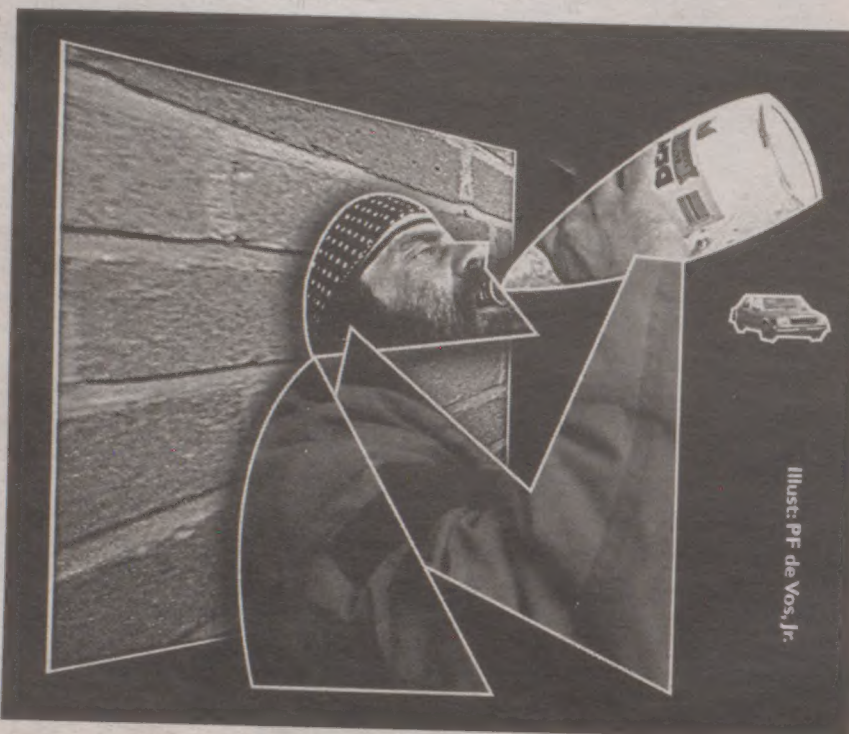
In 1976, Cnst.. Ernie Pudwill took his first posting as a member of the Edmonton Police Service in Edmonton's inner city. After twenty-three years of experience as a peace officer, and with what he describes as a "particular family history that involved alcoholism", plus a certificate in addictions from the U of A, he was assigned to conduct a short evaluation of the Edmonton Police Service's present approach to public intoxication. The request came after the Safer Cities Initiative sub-committee on Public Intoxication presented their report, "Street Solutions" to the various stake holders, including the police department. The purpose of Constable Pudwill's evaluation was to see if the EPS could do something to supplement the efforts of the committee and provide more effective services in the community. The result of his research, a twenty page report entitled *Beyond Enforcement*, does several things.

First, it challenges the reactions of the community at large to public intoxication: "The issue of public intoxication is an ongoing issue that places considerable expectations on the police to deal with it appropriately. Unfortunately the public's perception of the issue may not reflect reality. Public intoxication, although a highly visible issue, is a nuisance offense rather than a crime against a person or a property loss type of complaint."

Secondly, it provides valuable insight into the lives and motivations of the chronically addicted person: "What we see is an individual who appears to have a daily, personal relationship with despair. Quite often they are homeless and seek the support of agencies for food and shelter. Many have isolated themselves. The threat of violence and death is a constant companion and morally compro-

mising behaviours are routine...As they continue in their despair and most commonly their addiction, they begin a cycle of emergency shelters, detoxes, hospitals, food banks, court appearances, jails and the streets. This becomes their way of life.

In balancing what they would gain or lose from discontinuing their alcohol and/or drug use many of them came to the conclusion that sobriety and the trappings of the "real" world is more frightening than the addiction...The problem for those experiencing chronic addic-



tion, the people we see publicly intoxicated, may not be the addiction, it may be sobriety."

Thirdly, it questions the effectiveness of the Edmonton Police Department's zero-tolerance approach: "When it comes to the issue of public intoxication, public nuisance, panhandling and related occurrences we need to take a new and innovative approach...Although, enforcement, under specific circumstances, will always be a necessary aspect of this particular issue, I believe that it is paramount that we look at the bigger picture. Enforcement tends to be a short-term solution to a long-term problem....In reality we need to show them (the street alcoholic) a degree of compassion and that we are willing to

accept them the way that they are...This certainly doesn't mean they should be allowed to consume in public or pass out in public places. It does mean that through forming a relationship on trust and acceptance, one will be able to communicate there are certain consequences to unacceptable behaviors...The fact remains that our present initiatives are not much different than what we did 20 or 30 years ago. It wasn't very effective then and it still seems to be lacking somewhat these days."

And finally, Constable Pudwill proposes a modest step toward a solution: "As effective as the present 'beat' constables are, their scope of responsibility is too broad to be able to concentrate their efforts on just this one issue. Consequently, to appropriately problem solve this issue we need to take the unique initiative of dedicating a single member to this as a full-time assignment. This proposal is not designed to replace the efforts of the 'beat' constables but to supplement those efforts and refine our existing initiatives."

The evaluation, *Beyond Enforcement*, was submitted in July of 1999. Our Voice spoke to EPS Superintendent Guy Shimko recently about the feasibility of Constable Pudwill's proposal. While he stated that he believes the "holistic approach" advocated in *Beyond Enforcement* is the best way to go, citing similar models in US cities, the financial resources required, somewhere in the area of \$60,000 to start, are not currently available. The Edmonton Police Service currently employs the holistic approach in several areas, ie. children at risk, spousal violence and elder abuse, and is satisfied with the results of this progressive form of policing. However, in the competition for funding, the issue of the publicly intoxicated individual has not achieved priority status. Shimko believes that through exposure to the challenges that face these individuals, both within the police department and the community as a whole it may become possible to justify funding in this area.

In concluding his report Constable Pudwill quotes from *The Police Role in Alcohol-Related Crisis* by G.W. Garner, "The twin problems of alcohol abuse and personal disaster are enormous in size and complexity. Their investigation, research and treatment deserve the utmost in effort from law enforcement officers, government agencies of all levels and the public at large. Given the social disorder and personal tragedy so frequently brought on by these two related problems, no less an undertaking is justifiable."

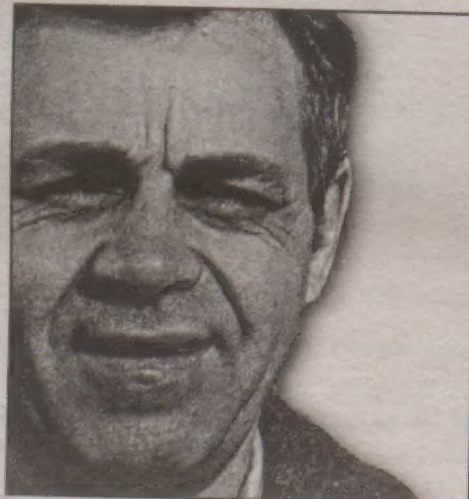
OV

A RANDOM ACT OF VIOLENCE

Natasha Laurence

I get knocked down, but I get up again. You're never gonna keep me down. The lyrics of the popular song could be Michael Harmsworth's theme song. Struggling with the physical and emotional effects of HIV and Hepatitis C, and committed to his recovery from a cocaine addiction, Michael has inspired many with both his story and his stamina.

On Wednesday, May 24, Michael has his first appointment at the Brain Injury Unit of the Glenrose Hospital. This latest episode in his story is the result of a random act of violence that left him suffering from panic attacks, nightmares, short-term memory loss, a constant ringing in his ears, and the feeling of fear when he walks out at night.



Michael Harmsworth

It all began with a simple evening out. Michael, his girlfriend, Gladys, and their friend, Dave had just finished a meal of pizza and pop. When they left the restaurant on 95 St. they were approached by a young man who asked them for money. Before they knew what was happening, he pulled a machete and struck Michael on the back of the head. He then attacked David, but by this time Gladys was on the street attempting to flag down a police car. The attacker fled, leaving Michael and David bleeding on the ground. Michael

credits Gladys with saving their lives.

That was over a month ago, and against the odds, Michael's progress has been slow and steady. His determination not only to survive, but to live with purpose, has no doubt played a large part in that progress, as has the love and support of Gladys. Their goal now is to gain some insight into the possible long term effects of Michael's brain injury and to learn ways to cope with those effects together.

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"DID RALPH KLEIN CREATE HOMELESSNESS?"

Recent count shows homelessness still rising

Michael Walters

"Did Ralph Klein create homelessness here in Edmonton, well I think we really need to ask that question of our Premier and of the whole government," says Steven (Steven is not his real name. Steven is on Social Assistance and fears being cut off for saying what he thinks.)

"In 1991 I was living in Leduc, with my wife who has since passed on. I had a fairly good job. I had a car. We had a decent place to live. Then when she (his wife) got too sick I needed some time off work now and then to take care of her and eventually I needed too much time off according to my employer. I got fired. We managed to get enough money from social services to get by. When my wife died in 1995, I was immediately cut off of assistance, because the money we were receiving was because of her being sick. She had stomach and breast cancer. Everything pretty much crashed down around me. I hadn't worked for a long time, I had lost my wife who was my best friend and my family. I had no savings and then the checks stopped coming. Before I could pull my act together I was out of my place because I could pay no rent.

"Within two months I lost my wife, my home and I was staying at the Herb Jamieson Centre. I thought to myself, what the Hell has happened

here. I'm a forty-two year old man, who has always had a job and an income and now here I sit. I couldn't even believe it. I never thought it would happen. I was homeless. I always heard about homeless people on t.v and mostly it was a problem in the U.S., but here in Alberta and me to top it off. It was f**cking unbelievable."

Recently the Edmonton Homeless Count Committee conducted its third count of people living on Edmonton streets. It found 1125 homeless Edmontonians. This is up from last November's count which revealed 1114 homeless folks and way up from the first count in 1998 which found 836 homeless.

According to Jerry Bellikka, spokesperson for the Department of Human Resources and Employment (Social Services), there is some question to the accuracy of the count.

"There is no one at the government level who is denying there is a homeless problem. We just don't trust the methodology of the count," he says.

The Count Committee describes their method as a direct count and an indirect count. The direct count simply

isn't a serious problem," says Bellikka.

"It has a lot to do with how the average person defines homelessness. They see homeless people as someone on a grate on the corner under a blanket."

The count defines people as absolute homeless and as sheltered homeless. Absolute homeless individuals and families have absolutely no housing alternative. The count found 579 people were absolute homeless. The sheltered homeless are individuals and families who are living in emergency accommodations or condemned housing and are expected to be on the street by the end of their stay. There are 546 sheltered homeless, according to the report.

Many people who work with the homeless also question the report, feeling the number is far too low.

"People who are homeless and who are asked about it will in most cases not be too open to admitting it," says Steven. "When I was homeless I wouldn't have told any stranger who came up to me on the street. At an agency if I had some sort of trust with someone I would admit it, because I wanted their help, but most people I know who have spent any time on the street won't say they are homeless. It's too tough to even admit it to yourself. I don't know if there are more or less than 1000 homeless people, but there are way too many."

Steven lived on the streets for more than a year, because as a single male he received less than four hundred a month in assistance. He was unable to get enough money together to get a place, even to keep a place if he did. At the same time, he still struggled with the death of his wife.

Just before Christmas of 1997 Steven was diagnosed with Diabetes after falling into a coma, that left him with minor brain damage. In the beginning of 1999 his assistance was increased because of his new disability. He now receives \$566 per month. He lives in an one room hovel in the inner city. He suffers severe short term memory loss and has been told by his doctor he can never work.



determines the number of people in emergency shelter beds. The indirect count attempts to capture the invisible homeless through a street count, where they ask people on the street if they have a permanent residence to return to. The agency count calls on agencies such as the food bank and Bissell Centre and bottle depots to ask the same questions. The turn away count is the number of people turned away from crisis services and the discharge count determines the number of people discharged from facilities with no permanent place to go.

The reluctance of the provincial government to accept the numbers in the report was revealed in an Edmonton Journal article early in May.

"David (Staples) approached me by asking 'is this thing (the report) a piece of crap or what?', and I question the report, but no way do I suggest that homelessness



"I've tried every possible way to blame myself for the way things have turned out, but I can't. This shouldn't have happened to me. I should have never been on the streets when I fell into that coma and I should never have had this brain damage. I should be back on my feet by now, but it's impossible. There are so many people out here like me too. They've been screwed by how hard it's become to fight back. The Klein government made it this way. I didn't hear of homeless people before he came to power. Now there are lots of them. I was one of them, and could be again in a heartbeat."

OV

WHOSE HANDS SHOULD TOUCH THIS LAND?

Commentary by Rebecca Lippiatt-Long

Hinton is a town fiercely proud of its working class beginnings. The labourers have created deep roots in the community and are proud to see their sons and daughters follow in their hard working footsteps.

Hinton is founded on resource development. In 1958, a pulp mill was built in the centre of the district. The town established itself around the mill and grew with the construction of several coal mines through the 1970's and 80's.

About one fifth of the town's ten thousand residents are employed in resource industries. These industries are the basis and the lifeblood of the community. Without them, Hinton would not have a history. To the south of Hinton is a land mass called the Cardinal Divide, an area untouched by the last ice age. Rare plant species grow where the Cardinal and McLeod rivers start and the area is home to some of Canada's endangered icons. There are just over a thousand grizzly bears left in Alberta, and this area is essential habitat. The rivers in this wilderness support Harlequin ducks and the Athabasca rainbow trout.

Under this landmass lies a gleaming band of black coal. Cardinal River Coals, a joint Alberta-US venture wants to mine this coal when the Luscar mine, which employs over 400 Hinton residents, shuts down in three years.

This area, with its rich reserves of coal, hard working miners, and pristine wilderness is a stage set for a battle. And for the last four years, the area has been at war over the proposed Cheviot mine.

All the players in this confrontation have solid reasons why they value the Cardinal Divide. The most vocal claims are made by the business community and backed by the government. Both groups are dedi-

cated to resource development and the revenues it generates. Environmental groups assert that the proposed 23 kilometre long strip mine will devastate wildlife in the area even with the proposed reclamation. Caught in the middle are the residents of Hinton and the employees of the mine.

In the media, the miners are collectively referred to as "400 jobs." When the war of words heats up, they are called the "social aspects of the project." They are alternately used as shields and weapons by the company. What they aren't called are residents who "play and work on the land."

While miners are often at odds with their employers over various issues, in the matter of the Cheviot mine, the miners' union is firmly on the side of their employer.

Union members know that if Cheviot does not go ahead, the corporation may lose its bid, but will still exist, and environmental groups will have scored a victory. The miners, however, have much to lose and little to gain. They face the loss of both their jobs and their community.

Environmental groups have approached the union to talk about sustainable jobs, like eco-tourism but the union calls these transient, low paying, non-union jobs unacceptable substitutes for the well paid mining jobs they currently hold. The union contends that proposed employment alternatives offer no real plan of action and no track record.

While there have been attempts at mediation, at Cheviot they appeared too lit-

tle and too late. The miners' union says they refuse to endorse any labour policy that puts people out of work.

The Alberta Federation of Labour takes a longer term view of the issue and focuses on the mutual responsibility of all the partners involved. They do support the process of "just transition," a program that assists workers in finding economic alternatives to employment lost to environmental change.

Currently, the Cheviot mine proposal is still being reviewed. Coal prices on the world markets may make opening the mine financially unsound for the Cardinal River Coal. If that happens, the environment will remain untouched but the miners in Hinton will face a difficult future.

There are lessons that can be learned from Cheviot. While environmental groups may dislike the label of jobs versus the environment, for the people who live, work and play in a community that is founded on resource extraction, environmental laws and actions started outside the community feel like a direct challenge to their way of life. **OV**

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Accountability versus market interest

Myles Kitagawa

It might seem like a cop-out position for an opinion-editorial analysis, but my answer is: "in a way". Accountability today is one of those apparently qualitative, but ultimately vague service concepts like "quality" or "public-interest". Many people use the term, and you might know it when you see it, but it's hard to describe.

In the strictest definition, accountability means simply, "to be bound to give a reckoning of debits and credits in money or service" and any company which has prepared an environmental impact assessment (EIA) certainly has provided an account for their total pollution emitted, habitat fragmented, wastes discharged, wildlife specimens terminated, and risks of human disease resulting from their project. The EIA describes the geographic or temporal extent of these impacts, offers an opinion on their significance, and justifies why they are controllable and/or acceptable. Like a bookkeeper tracking the cheques and balances of a bank account, the companies are accounting for nature's "VECs", the so-called "valued ecosystem components" which humans have interest in because they hunt, harvest, or otherwise use them. This work, which is required by law, clearly indicates that companies take at least the "valued" aspects of the environment into account when they are developing their projects, but never to the extent that protecting the environment compromises economic viability. To industry, the environment is but another factor to consider in project design, along with capital and operational costs, expected rate of return on investment, and proximity to markets.

This is not the accountability environmentalists seek in the governing of industrial activity. The EIA process focuses on a project-by-project review of environmental impacts, evaluating the incremental impacts which are always justified as being "only a small percentage of the

total impacts to the environment". Adding one more well, seismic line, in-situ tarsands project, or pipeline, doesn't seem to make a lot of difference against the backdrop of all existing developments, so they are approved. This narrow view fails to account for the cumulative effect of many and different industrial activities all impacting the environment at the same time.

All real wealth (that is, the resources we use to maintain our lives, in contrast to the paper wealth of over-valued stock market commodities) is derived from nature. But nature's capacity to continuously provide these resources is limited. Several ecosystems in the world have already been so over-harvested by human industrial activity that the whole system is doomed to collapse.

Effective environmental accountability, then, can only proceed in an order beginning with establishment of environmental limits, then managing human activities such that these limits are never approached. How much forest habitat can be rendered useless by wildlife before the species population might not recover? How much of the land base can be paved or mined or clear-cut before the land can no longer provide resources needed for life (both human and not)? What concentrations of pollutants in air, water, and soil will be protective for ALL the ecosystem components (such as microbes essential to maintaining fertile soil)?

This information is the environment's opening balance. Only after we know how much of nature's carrying capacity we are able to safely use, can we begin to responsibly exploit it.

Generally, this work is not done; not in the oil and gas industry, nor agriculture-forestry, nor urban planning. The few forestry companies that have done this type of work have discovered that the "valued ecosystem component" that they rely upon is dangerously over-allocat-

This troubling signal is repeated in major ecosystems all over the planet.

Human industry cannot be truly accountable to the environment until we have secure understanding of how far we can encroach on nature before it can no longer recover. Lacking this knowledge, industries have been working hard at "accounting", but failing to be accountable.

Given the economic self-interest that is the reason industrial corporations exist, it seems almost naive to expect accountability from them. Even the most progressive companies indicate that when push comes to shove, their share-holders (especially mutual fund managers) expect that they will abandon social and environmental programs if it compromises profitability. At the same time, the federal and provincial environmental departments that are charged with protecting nature have suffered such debilitating cut-backs that they cannot effectively do their jobs. Accountability must then flow to another party.

Collectively, consumers can be a demanding voice for environmental accountability. By preferentially purchasing goods and services from companies with progressive policies and boycotting the bad players, individuals can participate in shaping the behaviour of corporations. Recently, Friends of the Earth called for a boycott of Imperial Oil/Esso service stations for selling gasoline with the highest sulfur content in Canada. Even more deserving of boycott is Imperial's position on climate change. Imperial argues against action on climate change by publicly claiming that there is "no scientific proof" that climate change is occurring. Imperial's demand for scientific proof of climate change can never be satisfied since no experiment can be conducted on the Earth's atmosphere. Imperial's position simply confuses public debate to protect their market interests.

For better or for worse, environmental accountability relies upon the actions of every individual in society.

OV

Myles is the director of the Toxic Watch Society

HEAD TO HEAD:

Is the Oil Industry Accountable to the Environment?

The wasted energy
we put into the
Environment

John Walters

There was a time when the Oil industry and every other industry for that matter completely disregarded the environment. There was no such thing as environmental protection. These days, it's another one of those buzz phrases used by special interest groups. Environmentalists are generally nothing more than anti industrialists who fail to see the value of industry in terms of employment and the money it gives people. Certainly I understand the connectedness that we as people have to the earth, but by no means should people be sacrificed in order to preserve a tree or a duck. Of course this is a very contentious and open ended discussion.

So what about the oil industry? Are they accountable to the environment? Well what do we mean by accountable? And just for the hell of it, what do we mean by the environment? Is the environment something that considers the well being of people or is it the consideration of all things other than people. Is it a balance of all of these things and how do we define this balance? Who has the right or the spiritual ability to define this balance?

The Oil industry has been the back bone of this province for nearly one hundred years. People from border to border have made their livings, fed their families, and raised their children because of the oil industry in Alberta. These hard working men and women are the key to the industry. They are the ones who demand accountability above all else. They are the people, they are the environment.

I suppose I could get to the heart of the point that this question begs me to make.

I believe the Oil industry is too accountable to the environment. I believe too many dollars are spent pleasing government standards which are created by pressure from the special interest groups which contrive the environmental movement. These are dollars that should be aimed at creating more work for people and that should be invested directly into the pockets of the oil families in this province. We are wasting millions of dollars that could create RRSP plans for the futures of children whose parents spend their lives working in the oil industry.

Let's look directly to the Alberta Energy Company (AEC), one of the largest oil and gas companies in the world. The AEC has many levels of environmental policy. Prior to any development they endure the process of assessing all potential environmental impacts during the design and planning of projects. They carry out thorough consultation with all people who feel they or their surroundings will be impacted. If there are concerns, progress will be delayed until those concerns are accurately identified and addressed. The AEC actually goes as far to provide money to these special interest groups to do environmental research.

Once this process is completed AEC then continues a system of monitoring the effects they may be having on the "environment". They have emergency response plans to ensure that if anything goes wrong, they will be able to minimize the damage and the expense of the repairs if

any are needed.

Really "environmental accountability" has become just another political game. Bureaucracy is created to croak about an issue that should be a non issue.

Recently we dealt with Wiebo Ludwig telling Albertans that the Oil and Gas industry was killing his babies and killing his animals, but there was no proof of this, other than some photos his wife wore from a chain around her neck. This has had great influence on this issue of accountability and I'm sure is the parent of this question being asked by this magazine.

People need to take a look around them. The sky is still blue and lakes are still filled with fish and every time I open my eyes while outside I see a tree. Since I have been alive on this earth, some 52 years, nothing about the earthly environment around me has changed.

So is the oil industry accountable to the environment? Absolutely and more so. Where I question its accountability is to the people who have worked so hard to make all these giant companies as rich as they are. This is not a criticism. The oil business has done great things for endless numbers of people, but I would suggest not getting so caught up in the wishes of people who provide nothing but contempt for an industry that so many other people have worked so hard to build.

OV

J. Walters has worked in the Alberta Oil fields for nearly 35 years.

STARING DOWN THE GANGS

Linds Dumont

Are Aboriginal gangs here to stay. Some people in the inner city think so. WhiteStone Resources, an organization addressing issues facing Aboriginal peoples, has existed more than nine years and they lack funding. Then Father Jim Holland, a priest at Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, received a grant application. "It was a fluke that the government sent it up. I knew Connie, Marcel and Shane (the three partners in Whitestone Resource). They had hoped for a long time to get funding."

Father Holland sent in the application and the result was funding for a 12 week course offered to urban Aboriginal young adults. It was called the WhiteStone

tell people where to go, but we take them where they have to go."

"We too often take small things for granted," he said.

WhiteStone Resource is planning three conferences in the next year for 20 to 30 year olds. There is a back to school festival in late August combining games and booths with information on going back to school along with a Heart of the City Christmas party to give inner city families gifts. They are also planning a drama festival for youth next spring.

OV

"We've been enabling Aboriginal people for so long - how can we teach them pride? They don't need handouts, they need support."

Project. Aboriginal gangs was a key area of discussion. To discuss the problem of gangs openly and positively and to seek alternatives to the gang lifestyle, the fifteen people involved in the project put on a conference. It was held March 30 and 31 at the Sacred Heart Church.

"We had a map and identified where people came from," said Marcel Pelletier, one of the three partners in WhiteStone Resource. "They were from all over - not just Edmonton, but all across Western Canada."

The conference focused on youth 20 to 30 years old and gave them an opportunity to identify needs and create an action plan. Some of the ideas to keep youth from getting involved in gangs included recognizing them as equal participants in decision making processes, having gym nights, and having alcohol and drug free places to go. Literacy was also seen as important. A study of gangs in California found that members had a low level of literacy, and the same is believed to be true here. The action plan also included making cultural activities available to youth.

Shane Lafond, another partner in the WhiteStone Resources, said the gang issue is just one of the issues that has to be dealt with.

"We don't believe the needs of the people are being met in the heart of the city," he said. "We've been enabling Aboriginal people for so long - how can we teach them pride? They don't need handouts, they need support."

He told about how, when he was working with an inner city agency, they would send men to Canada Place to look for work, and the men didn't want to go, so one day he decided to walk with them instead of just sending them.

"I could see them getting tense as we walked toward Canada Place," he said. "They were intimidated by the structure of the building. They felt out of place. Support is walking in their shoes. After that, I quit taking the car and started walking with them wherever they wanted to go."

He said with Whitestone Resources, the support is there whether it is 7 p.m. or 2 a.m. because "anyone can

Photo: Linda Dumont



Shane Lafond and Marcel Pelletier of WhiteStone Resources

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FINDING THE COURAGE TO SPEAK Revisiting Residential Schooling

Allison Kydd

Native Elder Alfred Bonaise from Red Pheasant Reserve, Saskatchewan, says he never went to a residential school because his grandparents hid him in the cellar whenever the priest was driving through their community. Others were not so lucky. Three survivors told their stories on May 6, at Edmonton's Native Healing Centre, to the Governing Board of the Canadian Council of Churches.

The three were women. Their stories were similar, but they were also very personal. Adele Arcand, from Alexander Cree Nation, attended the Ermineskin Residential School, near Hobbema. She remembers some good things, how she had a speech impediment, and the "first time [she] realized [she] wasn't stupid" was at school. Her teachers pushed her - she didn't like it - but she found out she could learn.

There was also a dark side. A nun, the one Arcand thought was the kindest, stripped and whipped a girl in front of the other girls because a boy had kissed her. Many of the girls grew up very confused about sexuality. They also learned to be ashamed of being Native.

Adele Arcand is now a counselor herself and has a "strong sense of justice. She hears everyday of families being pulled apart. 'The web of life that connected us was broken,' she says, '[we're] still struggling to rebuild that . . .

Ann Magnusson first went to residential school, at Port Alberni, British Columbia, when she was six. Her ten-year-old sister traveled with her, but they were separated at the school. Magnusson will never forget the huge rooms full of little cots. She also remembers being sick, alone and so hungry she stole food. She had nightmares about losing her sister.

Many things combined to "instill in the children a deep shame." Punishment for wrong doing was a strap administered on hands, arms and sometimes backside. Once a male staff member exposed himself to the girls when they were on a trip to the

beach. Some children even abused each other.

Ann Magnusson didn't know her own mother when she finally came to the school. Some time after, Magnusson and two step brothers went to foster care; her beloved sister ran away, started a life on the streets and eventually died of alcohol abuse.

Though Magnusson has had a healthy marriage and spiritual life, she feels a "deep pain and resentment" because she has no relationship with her biological family. "It will take generations for the healing to take place," she says.

Dr. Maggie Hodgson claims she was an abuser herself. By 1959, nuns weren't allowed to use the strap, and she "abused" them with her bad language. She also remembers a "sense of abandonment," especially since she grew up in British Columbia and was sent to Saskatchewan, where "there were no trees."

Dr. Hodgson works with the Assembly of First Nations national team. Her portfolio is residential schools, specifically alternative dispute resolution. These pilot projects offer healing and support where needed while leaving churches viable and avoiding expensive court cases. "[It's] not a healing process to go for a lot of money," suggests Dr. Hodgson.



Elder Alfred Bonaise

ABORIGINAL CHILDREN CHALLENGED BY PRINCE CHARLES

Jason Harley

AWASIS is Cree for "the child". Prince Charles School, in the community of Sherbrooke, offers a special program that focuses on AWASIS: the native child. If the name sounds familiar, it may be because a month ago the school was featured on the Sunday cover of the Edmonton Journal. Apparently, two older children who attend Prince Charles School assaulted Councilor Alan Bolstad's son. The article went on to describe the problems another elementary school in the area was having with regards to Prince Charles' students harassing their kids. The tone of the piece,

what their exact needs are and address those needs. It is a process. We have to get to know the child and the child has to get to know and trust us. There are no short cuts," said Carter.

Surrounded by kids with similar backgrounds, the students at Prince Charles feel less intimidated. Classes teach their cultural history and Cree language along with the standard curriculum. Learning about themselves is something the children can get excited

We have to get to know the child and the child has to get to know and trust us. There are no short cuts."

according to many, was negative and somewhat racist. Over 90% of the students at Prince Charles are of native ancestry. Bullying is a problem at any school. It seems, according to Principal Jeanne Carter, they were being unfairly singled out and picked on.

The AWASIS program started in 1980. It was originally designed to meet the needs of urban Aboriginal children from kindergarten to grade 6. In 1998, the program expanded to include a Junior High at nearby Sherbrooke School. Bussing is provided to any Aboriginal student north of the river who wishes to take advantage of the specialized program.

Many of Prince Charles' students live in poverty. Many suffer from the effects of fetal alcohol syndrome. As young children, they often have not received the consistent stimulation, diet and rest needed for future learning.

In overcoming these challenges, the school works to maximize the potential of each child. In an inner-city school, children often feel stigmatized. They are in a school for "poor kids". They are surrounded by older teens who have long since dropped out and loiter about the streets. The temptations to drop out and fall into the same negative patterns can be overwhelming. Prince Charles provides their kids with a positive atmosphere. In a predominantly white school, native children can feel isolated and are often picked on.

"Our children come from challenging backgrounds. It is our challenge to pin point

about. In an environment of openness and trust, the children are given a chance to excel.

The school operates on the "Code of the Golden Feather". It is a pact between the students. They promise to treat the school, their teachers and one another with respect, humility, honesty and integrity. The "Golden Feather" is merely one of the aboriginal traditions used to bring the students closer together. There is also a Sharing Tipi, the Council of 15 Wise Spirits (similar to a Student Council), and cultural activities such as dance and dress. Each program is designed to empower the students, to make school a place they want to be.

The program seems to be working. According to Carter, after spending a few years in the program, the difference in a child's confidence level and academic performance is noticeable. The child takes this renewed sense of self-confidence home with them and it translates into more active parent involvement. "One of the biggest things we try to do is reach out to the parents. They see what their kids are learning. Their child speaks the language of their grandparents and they become interested. They begin to improve their own literacy skills. We've had more than a few parents return to school as a result of their child's involvement with us."

Carter added, "the bottom line is Aboriginal kids who come to us start to view school differently. It becomes a fun, positive experience. They are more likely to continue their education if they get off to the right start."

A VENDOR FOR LIFE

Remembering Joe Bates

Linda Dumont

In the Our Voice community, Joe Bates was Vendor number 43. He was one of the vendors from 1993, that first year on the street. Back then we were selling the Spare Change paper from Vancouver with its insert of Edmonton content. Joe said he signed up to sell papers because he saw people walking around with them and he needed some money. Over the years, Our Voice became an important part of Joe's life. It made him feel that he was doing something, and he found support from the other vendors and his steady customers. At the time of his death on May 6, he had two copies of the May issue among his personal effects.

Joe was born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, where his family lived in a house on Seemore Street. His parents both worked- his father as a butcher made \$50 a week, and his mother had two low paying jobs. Joe, his three brothers and his sister were in the hands of a baby sitter while their parents were away.

When he got older, Joe took over household duties after school, washing the dishes and having supper cooked for his dad when he came home from work. School, however, only lasted a few years.

Joe's family moved to England when he was 14, but Joe and one brother, Stephen, didn't like England so, after two years, they moved in with an aunt in Toronto leaving the rest of the family overseas. Joe returned to school and got his mechanic's license when he was 18.

Joe was always very proud of his mechanical ability and the Class A license he held, but his love of cars kept getting him into trouble. He lost his license for having too many fines. He couldn't leave the cars alone and was charged with driving while suspended and using a phoney name. He said he was also wanted in Ontario for car theft.

"I was 28 when someone asked me to do the body work on a car. I got charged because it turned out to be a stolen car," he said.

Joe's life changed in 1984. He fled Ontario for Alberta to avoid being arrested, and then had to quit mechanical work when he was diagnosed with colon cancer. Although surgery was successful in removing the cancer, he was never healthy after that. His digestion was affected, and he started taking more and more prescription medications including Tylenol 3, sleeping pills and medication for ulcers. Unemployed, his health ruined, he turned to alcohol, and occasionally cocaine. He started having seizures, and was put on even more medication, plus regular prescriptions for Boost.

Joe was frequently homeless. It was hard for him to keep a residence for long. Being on the street, he had many homeless friends, and as soon as he got a place, others would start to come by looking for shelter or a place to drink. This led to partying and eviction.

He spent many nights at the George Spady Centre. Sometimes he would come by with a bottle of beer and say, "I have to drink this so they will let me in (at Spady) for the night."

Since Joe and my husband, Glen, were good friends, Joe was a frequent visitor at our house. His visits could last for a month or more while he was looking for another apartment. While he stayed with us, he willingly ran small errands, did repairs around the house, and when we were running low in food, as often happens, took his turn making the food bank rounds. In the mornings, he often brought us all coffee from The Mustard Seed next door. It was his way of giving something back since he was broke most of the time.

In April, he managed to get in a couple of days of casual labour working with a landscaping company. Each day he worked, he proudly gave us \$10 to pay his way. Unfortunately, after a few days on the job, he and Glen decided to celebrate, and the alcohol put an end to his work.

Joe seemed to know nearly every auto wrecker in the city, as well as tow truck drivers. One of Joe's mechanic friends who lent him tools, said he had never seen a guy like Joe "who could completely dismatle a car in under a half hour."

Joe kept my old car running. When the headlights burned out, Joe found me a new set at Pick Your Part. Unfortunately, he borrowed the car and drove out to pick them up while I was at work. I came home to find my car and Joe missing. I was imagining the worst - him being stopped and arrested for driving without a license and my car impounded.

"I was concerned about you driving at night without headlights," he explained.

Joe was never short of ideas to make a few dollars, and kept an eye out for things he could do. He laughed about the most ingenious scheme he and his uncle had for making quick money. They went into the fertilizer business, selling Miracle Grow fertilizer for flower beds. His uncle dug it up in outhouses, they dried it and bagged it. They were doing good business, because the fertilizer was excellent and really made the flowers grow, until someone found out where it came from.

The business was closed, and his uncle charged with fraud.

Joe was handy with tools and liked to tinker around with appliances. He used this skill to repair old television sets that he found in the garbage, then sold. When I needed a TV, he sold me a small black and white one for \$7 (he needed cigarettes). The TV worked well, but when I turned it on, it had a disgusting smell -just like a dumpster! Another Our Voice vendor, Gordon Eddy, said he remembers Joe each time he watches the color television he bought from Joe.

Joe's last Christmas was spent with us. He was homeless at the time, and won a huge turkey at the Our Voice vendor party. He told me to take it home, and we served it for Christmas dinner.

At Christmas time Joe remembered the three children he left behind in Toronto. He had married a woman named Susan, and the couple had a daughter and two sons.

"The marriage didn't last. Susan got into drugs and started hooking," Joe said. "The children were put in children's aid and I lost track of them."

Over the years, selling Our Voice became very important to Joe; more than just a means to earn some extra money. He developed a support group through selling the paper. When he worked at Canada place, the "spicy chicken man" would give him a free order of spicy chicken on rice and a cup of coffee.

From 1995 to 1997, Joe sold papers at the Strathcona Farmers' Market, and even after he was no longer selling Our Voice there, he still went nearly every Saturday to help the market vendors. Charlotte, who has a Pillowtalk booth where she sells

quillows, wrote- "Joe was a good person. He had a big heart, always looking to help any way he could. He would be at the market, often by 5 a.m. on Saturday morning, helping every vendor he could. By the time I arrived at the market, he had already been working up a sweat for hours. Joe never stopped until the last vendor was in the market, and I was normally the last vendor. Joe would help me get my things in the door, then we would continue our day, he selling papers and me my goods. My stall was right next to where he worked."

Unfortunately, at times Joe's drinking interfered with his selling papers, and he had to be suspended for selling while under the influence of alcohol. He found the suspensions very difficult to deal with, and always tried to keep on selling the papers even though this led to more problems in the long run, and longer periods of suspension. Through this, he gained a reputation as a renegade vendor. Even while under suspension, he remained an important part of the Our Voice Community.

Funeral services for Joe Bates were held at Sacred Heart Church of the First People's on May 14.



A photograph of Joe shortly before he died.



images of protest

Anti-Bill 11 rallies at the Provincial Legislature

Photos by P.F. de Vos, Jr.



"I'm not a leftist; I'm where the righteous ought to be." - M.M. Coady



HIGHLANDS BY-ELECTION FEATURE

Highland is home to the Inner City where we find too much poverty.
If elected, what will these candidates do about it?

VOTE JUNE 12th

A VISION FOR A BETTER ALBERTA

Brian Mason, New Democrats

They say the economy is booming in Alberta, and there are some signs showing that it is. But I can't help but ask myself why so many of our fellow Albertans are struggling to find affordable housing or trying desperately to make ends meet? Why, then, are food bank line-ups remaining at record highs?

The reason is that the current government doesn't pay attention to the needs of ordinary Albertans and their families.

Why is it so many people lack a sense of hope? That is because this government is not doing anything to provide any. They have forgotten too many people in their rush to pay down the debt and cut taxes for the wealthy.

This has to change. People, whether they live in Riverbend or Boyle-McCauley, want the same thing – a sense that things are going to get better.

I think that hope should be seen as a basic human right. We all deserve some. Creating some hope for our citizens will take a lot of work, but I think together we can do it.

I've been on city council for 11 years and the area of the city I've represented faces major challenges in the areas of housing, unemployment, poverty and crime. I know the problems because I've lived in Edmonton-Highlands for over 20 years. But that means I've also got a few ideas on how to solve those problems.

For example, by working with concerned community groups I and the community have made many slum landlords upgrade housing to acceptable levels or tear down their buildings. I believe that if we work together in a grassroots fashion, a community and their elected official can make a lot of things happen. Things that make life a little better.

First and foremost, I want to find a way to help people get some security. Many are stuck in low-wage, dead-end jobs. Others can't find work. Sitting back and hoping the oil-driven economy will lift them up is not enough. I believe we need community-based economic development that can bolster the community and create jobs for its residents at the same time.

We need to raise the minimum wage to at least \$7.00 an hour and index it to inflation every year. The current situation is a disgrace. Alberta is the richest province in Canada and we have the lowest minimum wage outside the Maritime provinces. It is an absolute shame when poorer provinces like Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are committed to raising

their minimum wages to keep pace with inflation while rich Alberta is not.

We need to get the province to commit again to help develop affordable housing for low-income Albertans. It's just not fair for the higher levels of government to download their responsibility onto cities and non-profit organizations. The federal and provincial governments must make long-term and stable commitments to invest in safe and secure housing for everyone.

We need to raise the rates for social assistance. As it stands now, the government is asking Albertans to choose between food and rent. Welfare shouldn't be punishment – it should be assistance.

We need to cut tuition fees at universities and colleges much more than we need to cut taxes. Alberta's tuition fees have tripled since 1991. That's the highest increase in the country! There's just no way that ordinary Albertans can get access to the education they need to find the jobs that are out there.

And most of all we need to rebuild our public health care system after the damage that's been done by the Tory government. There are many changes we can make in our public health system that will make it stronger.

Expanding for-profit health care is not the answer, it's the problem! Instead of for-profit hospitals, we need non-profit, community-based clinics like the Boyle-McCauley Health Centre. We should be looking at things like a pharmacare program so that Albertans can get the prescription drugs they need without having to feel the pain in the pocketbook.

There's a lot that needs to be done to make things better for Albertans. We just need people in the Legislature who care and who listen.

From the debate over Bill 11, it's clear that the Tories don't care and the Tories don't listen.

I want to do for the people of Edmonton-Highlands what I have done for the people of Ward 3. I want to roll up my sleeves and get to work with neighbourhoods and communities to get things done.

Democracy is the art of
thinking independently
together.

Alexander Meiklejohn

Brian Mason ✓

"For over 11 years as City Councillor, I fought for the interests of communities. As your New Democrat MLA I will work to create hope for Albertans needing affordable housing and income security."



Edmonton Highlands
Brian Mason Campaign Office
474-2418

5339 - 112 Avenue Edmonton, Alberta T5W 0N6
Website: www.newdemocrats.org/Highlands.html
Email: mason@newdemocrats.org

**The New
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- *Housing projects for the low-income at affordable costs in innovative ways.
- *A lower tax burden for Albertans
- *Social programs that give a hand up not a hand out.
- *Employment opportunities for our young people.
- *Celebration of the diversity of the community
- *Being a strong voice for every resident of Edmonton Highlands



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PUT THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE

John Reil, Alberta First Party

John Reil has a vision of an Alberta where the government is the servant of the people and leaders must lead, not command. This vision will result in a province where Albertans finally have a responsive, responsible and accountable government. John Reil is not only the candidate for the Alberta First Party in the Edmonton Highlands by-election, he is also the party leader, thus giving the electors of Highlands a chance to bring their riding to centre stage in the provincial political arena.

The reality of the current political situation is that all of the traditional parties pledge whatever is necessary in order to get elected, and then spend the next four or five years doing as they see fit. Haven't you ever wished that you could start a petition that would force a re-election on a politician who deceived you? Well, it's called 'recall', and the Alberta First Party is offering this to you. Haven't you ever wished that you could start a petition that could force a public vote on an issue where the government was ramming something down people's throats (like Bill 11)? Well, it's called a 'referendum', and the Alberta First Party would not only enshrine this in law, but the government would be forced to accept the referendum results! Don't you wish that the MLAs who are in the Legislature would vote according to the wishes of their constituents, and not just do whatever the party tells them to do? Well, the Alberta First Party proposes to make it illegal for political parties to coerce MLAs into towing the party line, thus finally giving them a chance to represent the people.

John Reil has spent years of his life preparing for the chance to reshape the political landscape in Alberta---and let's face it, reshaping our politics is the only way for the people of Highlands to come out ahead. A Universal Health Care plan with no extra billing, that would allow the patient to decide which facility receives their health dollars; an education plan that would allow parents to decide which facility gets their education money, thus putting parents back in control, and a government that would 'provide the highest standard of education in the world'. We need a government that would recognize that education is the only true way to break the 'cycle of poverty. Every Albertan is entitled to a life of dignity. We need to provide the necessities of life for those who are unable to provide for themselves.

Taxation is a popular theme amongst politicians these days, but let's face it--once you elect them, you don't have a clue whether they'll raise taxes or not. John Reil and the Alberta First Party guarantee no new or increased taxes without a referendum of the people of Alberta.

Let's put the people in charge---on June 12th, cast your vote for John Reil and the Alberta First Party. It's time for a REAL change!

For further information, contact Alberta First at Suite 505, 10665 Jasper Ave., Edmonton, AB, T5J 3S9 or phone: 420-0301, or fax: 420-0311 E-mail: director@albertafirstparty.com or visit our website at: www.albertafirstparty.com

Voting for the PC's, the Liberals or the ND's is not a vote for change

Vote **ALBERTA FIRST.**
Put yourself in charge!



It's
time to
VOTE
JOHN REIL

ALBERTA FIRST

CHANGING THE MIND SET

Barbara Fung, PC Party

The Edmonton Homeless- A much needed break from the traditional approaches that perpetuate mind sets of failure and dependency.

Edmonton has approximately 1100 people considered to be homeless. Of the 1100, 932 were single adults, (49% Caucasian and 40% Aboriginal) and mostly of the male gender.

The vast majority of these involve chronic patterns of homelessness that have been perpetuated because of social and cultural handicaps. Too often the solutions to the problem do not address the broader aspects of successful living like the role of individual initiative and feeling of self worth, cultural background and religious and spiritual framework. Because of this, too often the individuals are placed into situations that don't provide the means to break from the mind set of dependency. These are means like good role models, opportunities for exercising self worth.

Some examples that could be considered are:

a) Since 40% of the needy are natives the broader vitality of organizations like the Canadian Native Friendship Centre could be utilized to provide placement and monitoring on a broader front. We are seeing more and more successful Natives entering the "middle class" world too that might want to help

break the cycle.

b) Where appropriate many seniors could be encouraged to upgrade basement facilities for singles and as part of the placement they would receive assistance from the "renter" for such tasks as snow removal, grass cutting and odd jobs around the house. The role model of a successful senior is important for the renter but so too is the opportunity for the homeless person to feel they can make a contribution. Many seniors would welcome both the financial assistance and the little help around the home. The Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired might be tapped for monitoring purposes.

c) Where the individuals have expressed a leaning towards a religious or spiritual affiliation, local churches might be involved. Again services can be provided to the churches.

In any case any attempt to provide assistance to the homeless without providing the framework for future success of ridding themselves of dependency on society should not be encouraged. Placement of the homeless in group homes simply perpetuates their conditions. The lack of success throughout the Western World attests to its abject failure. Everyone has to value themselves and society. Hands up not hands out.

SOCIETIES ARE JUDGED BY HOW WELL THEY TREAT THEIR LESS FORTUNATE.

It has often been said that societies are judged by how well they treat their less fortunate. I think in Alberta today, we would get a pretty low grade for how we treat our poor. I believe that there are some fundamental steps that we should take as a society to see that those who are disadvantaged get to enjoy Alberta's riches. First, there must be an increase in the rate being paid to welfare recipients, particularly the amount of money given for housing. The current levels are too low, often forcing people to live on the streets or in shelters. Even worse, for those who have children, the current rates mean the caregiver is forced to take money out of the grocery budget, just to keep a roof over the family's head. That shouldn't happen in a province as rich as Alberta.

We also need to start looking at providing affordable subsidized housing in this province. Current waiting lists are too long, with families waiting years for affordable places to live. This province must work with both federal and municipal governments to build low-cost housing in a creative way. Refurbishing the abandoned military barracks or hospitals may be the way to go, but it is clear that it is time for creative solutions to a problem that has been ignored for too long. We also need to look at providing safe shelters, particularly for those who are hard to house. The river valley should not be the only alternative for those who are looking for a place to sleep tonight.

I would also do more to help the working poor. Far too many people work in minimum wage service industry jobs, with little or no bene-

fits. The minimum wage must be increased to at least \$7.50 an hour and there must be a way to create a sliding scale so that these workers get their prescriptions, glasses or dental work done at a subsidized rate.

Education must also be made more affordable. Too often, people who want to be retrained cannot afford the high tuition or education fees. There must be a freeze placed on all tuition costs in Alberta because a 30-thousand dollar debt at the end of four years education is a life sentence. Second, more bursaries and scholarships should be made available to all students, particularly older students or students with children. Finally, there should be a higher rate of remission for student loans and the repayment of student loans should be based not on an arbitrary figure, but on ability to pay. The loan payment could grow as the income grows - so students don't default on their loans and jeopardize their credit.

These aren't big changes and they aren't expensive programs to implement. We can provide all Albertans a place to sleep, something to eat, and a chance to learn if we just decide it's important and to me it is.



Let Ralph Klein know
you're sick
of his arrogance

Vote **Terry Kirkland**
Edmonton Highlands
June 12, 2000

2,751 PEOPLE WALKED FOR MS

John Zapantis

The 10th Annual Super Cities Walk for Multiple Sclerosis encouraged 2,751 people to walk the talk. The 28km walk was held at Rundle Park in Edmonton on May 7th.

Multiple Sclerosis is a multi-degenerative disease, that attacks the central nervous system.

Participants walked in teams. The teams which raised the most pledges won prizes. Money was raised for Multiple Sclerosis research and necessary M.S. programs offered to people afflicted by the disease.

Many M.S. Chapters hosted and organized Super Cities Walks. They were held in many cities in British Columbia during the 1st week of April and many cities in Alberta and throughout the rest of Canada through May.

The typical age span of people afflicted with M.S. is 20-40. Women are affected almost twice as often as men. The impairment may include, speech, vision, hearing and mobility. Over 50,000 Canadians have been afflicted by Multiple Sclerosis. The population of Canada is recognized as one of the highest carriers of M.S. in the world.

The May 7th Walk generated \$64,000. in pledges.

Five celebrities, who either live with M.S. or have loved ones with M.S., participated in the campaign. They spoke to help raise awareness about the search for a cure for M.S. The celebrities were: C.F.R.N. news anchor Shawna Kieser, who lives with M.S. C.F.R.N. news anchor Shawna Randolph, Edmonton Eskimo's great Henry "Gizmo" Williams, M.S. child spokesperson, Chris Courier, and E.Z.



Gizmo Williams and friends participated in the annual Super Cities Walk for Multiple Sclerosis.

Rock radio personality Charlee Redman.

Howard Riddel is the Executive Director of The Super Cities Walk for M.S. Edmonton Chapter. He's a strong advocate of having celebrity involvement for the Walk.

"Anytime we have notables in the community who are willing to support the cause, it's a tremendous advantage."

Henry "Gizmo" Williams has good reason to help out at the annual walk. Much of his family has been hit by the disease, including his mother, three sisters, four

nieces and four brothers.

"The most important thing that you can do is try to keep yourself in shape, especially if you are diagnosed with the disease; because it is a muscle disease. The stronger the muscle, the better it's going to be for you.

Sooner or later it will catch up with you but you don't know when, everyone's body works differently."

Nicore Rose is a grade 8 student involved in the Annual Walk. She was very determined in helping the many who live with M.S. The young student also came to the walk with another person in mind.

"I'm walking to help solve the problem of M.S. and raise money for my Grandmother. She lives with it."

Local sponsors Dairyland, Dairy Queen, Yo Plait, Cheemo, Save On Foods and others provided free hamburgers, hot dogs and dairy products and beverages to people involved in the event.

For more information concerning the Super Cities Walk for Multiple Sclerosis contact the Executive Director Howard Riddel 11203 - 70 Street Edmonton, AB. T5B 1T1 Phone (780) 471-3034 FAX (780) 479-2266. Office Hours 9:30 am - 4:00 pm Mon-Fri.

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—David Roberts, Professor, USC Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS)

"80% of Albertans believe that computers must not be used to replace teachers in traditional classes."

Vector Research and Development Inc. Canadian Teachers' Federation August '99

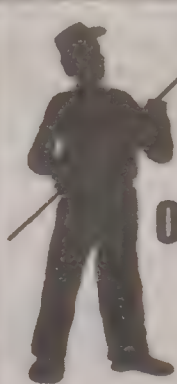


In a November 1999 Angus Reid poll, 73% of Albertans supported public education and 25% supported private education. The poll also found that 80% of Albertans believe that computers must not be used to replace teachers in traditional classes.

For more information, contact the ATA Public Education Action Committee at 1-800-438-5555. Elsewhere in Alberta call: 1-800-232-7208.

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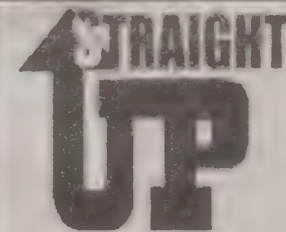
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SOWING THE SEEDS OF OUR VOICE IN SASKATCHEWAN

Ron Murdoch

Back in August 1995 I was on my way to Saskatoon. I heard that a street newspaper was being sold there. After seeing Social Services, who set up a three night stay for me at the men's hostel, I started a full scale search to see if what I heard was true.

I walked into the office of New Start Canada which ran a thrift store and the distribution office for Our Voice in Saskatoon. Linda Biggs, who was the Distributor at the time, set me up with 10 papers to get started. I had shown her some of my material which had been published in newspapers in B.C. They were stories about life on the streets of Kamloops, Prince Rupert and Vancouver. Little did I know this was the first step in getting myself out of the welfare rut, becoming self reliant and getting more self respect than I'd get being on Social Services, which seems to erode self respect.

For the first few weeks I sold in downtown Saskatoon but felt lost in the noon hour rush. Eventually I moved up to 11th and Broadway in the Nutana section of town. It is the trendy area of Saskatoon, influenced mightily by the University of Saskatchewan. It is a very open minded and socially conscious part of the city. My sales went well there and people appreciated Our Voice. For a year I worked the corner of 11th and Broadway, building up a large number of regular buyers. I became part of the scene in Nutana and always respected the community spirit.

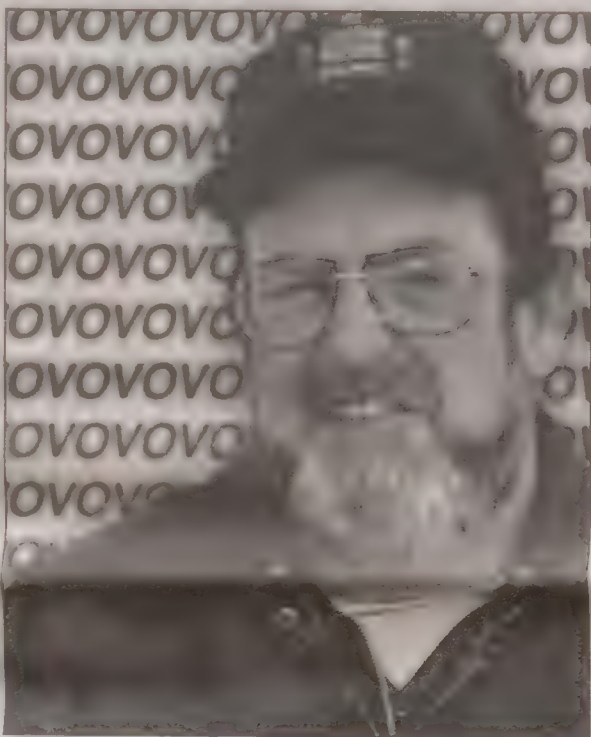
But with winter coming and with the prospect of it being as cold as the one before, I cut out of Saskatoon and headed to Prince Rupert for three years. I sought employment in the newspaper business there. I caught on with a weekly paper. But after I wrote a column supporting the fishermen's blockade of the Alaskan ferry Malaspina, I got into a heated argument with the editor who failed to see my viewpoint. I was informed I was no longer welcome in the office. So for the next 30 months I picked up the odd writing assignment for various pub-

lications. I had some articles published in Our Voice involving my homeless days in Vancouver and the art of dumpster diving. In the summer of 1999 I was getting restless and needed to get out of Prince Rupert. I felt like an emotional lobotomy case.

A newspaper just outside of Winnipeg expressed interest in my writing. So off I went to check it out, I didn't get the job due to the lack of a driver's license. What to do now, I asked myself. I was able to reach Rodney Graham by phone. I sold a few issues of Our Voice in Winnipeg, put some cash into my pocket and headed back to Saskatoon. I spent a week in Saskatoon back in October/99. People said they hadn't seen Our Voice in months as I sold it at my old corner. I started thinking about re-opening an Our Voice office in Saskatoon. I liked the idea of being self employed even at a small grass roots level.

So I contacted the folks in Edmonton about the possibility of the news magazine coming back to Saskatoon. They were in agreement so I rushed to Edmonton to learn how to run an office via the hands on approach with people who know what they are doing. Also it gave the head office a chance to know who they were dealing with. After working in Edmonton for 6 months, I learned what was necessary to run an office. So here I am back in Saskatoon with a big challenge in front of me. Along with vending and writing for Our Voice, I am using the skills learned in Edmonton to be a distributor in Saskatoon. I'm learning the fine art of

public relations and I am out to get companies interested in advertising. I'm surrounding myself with the right people necessary to help get my project off the ground. With the aid of Our Voice, I hope to make a smooth transition into my own Saskatchewan street newspaper within a couple of years. I'll keep you posted.



Ron Murdoch

Michener Allen

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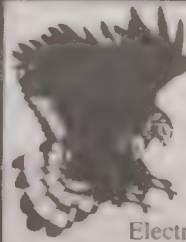


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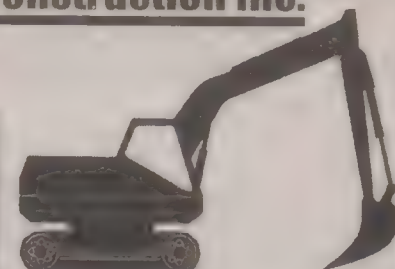
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INCEST AND CHILD ABUSE

Conclusion

Rodney Graham

"The mind has a tremendous capacity to hide pain and abuse," says Scott Abraham, a survivor of incest and author on the subject. "Many survivors do not seek therapy until middle age. They suppress the pain all their lives. This is counter-productive, it is much better to report the abuse immediately, but kids are usually powerless - at the mercy of the perpetrator. More resources for children are needed, and professionals need to be better trained to deal with, spot, and investigate child abuse. More public awareness is needed and professionals, such as police, teachers, and child protection agency workers should be trained far more extensively than they are now."

What are the consequences?

The effects of child abuse are far ranging and the child is never the only victim. Society suffers because the victim very often abuses others later in life, even still as a child or adolescent.

The victim always has emotional problems, can't deal with relationships later in life, suffers from depression, anxiety, fear, trauma and hostility towards authority. Innumerable victims must seek therapy or be hospitalized later in life.

According to a study by the National Institute of Justice (U.S.), maltreatment in childhood increases the likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 53% and as an adult by 38%. Being abused or neglected as a female increases the likelihood for arrest by 77%. Sexually abused children were 28 times more likely to be arrested for prostitution as an adult. Being abused as a child increases the likelihood of arrest for violent crime by 38%. Numerous studies have shown up to 90% of prostitutes were sexually abused as children. Our prisons and psychiatric hospitals are full of people who were sexually abused as

children! The result is often suicide. The victim will realize that they have been used, sometimes by the person who was supposed to care for them the most.

Why is it not reported more?

One reason child abuse is not reported is because the perpetrator will manipulate the child into thinking it is his or her fault- that they instigated it themselves. The child then feels responsible. But any expert on child abuse will tell you 'it is never the child's fault'. Because a family member perpetrates most abuse, the abuser can easily control the child's mind. The child will even protect the perpetrator by keeping the secret, which worsens the situation. In severe cases, the perpetrator will even use the child to recruit other victims or the child may even abuse other children. When the abuse persists, which is usually the case with incest for example, the children are brainwashed into thinking it is not wrong, even though they may hear differently outside the home. The parent will tell the child if they report it they will break up the family. The child is dependent on the parent. This is why perpetrators will often not put their children in school, but rather home school them. They can isolate the child. The perpetrator will instill fear of the establishment in their impressionable minds, telling them that they can't trust anyone, especially professionals, such as: teachers, doctors or police. These are the people who are mandated by law to report child abuse!

Another reason is that the child believes he or she will not be believed. Sadly, because we are such a private society, the "sacredness of the home" makes it possible for incest to germinate freely. Children are treated as property - people think they can do with them as they

RED BLOOD

Heather Slade

In his book *Red Blood*, author Robert Hunter explores the twin passions of his life: eco-activism and Native culture. Hunter is an icon in the environmental movement. He is a founding member of the world-wide Greenpeace movement and has been active on the front lines for more than 30 years. He is a self described "action junkie" and a prolific writer. He was born in small town Manitoba, moved west to become a journalist for the Vancouver Sun, and began his long quest for meaning.

The book is written in an informal, chatty style that one moment has you chuckling at his pranks and the next has you raging along with him at injustice. Hunter is an hon-

orary Kwakiutl brother and proud Rainbow Warrior. His battles consist of non-violent resistance. He has stood resolutely on the bow of a ship, about to be fired upon, in the name of what he believes.

The book is written in the same gritty style as he reports. His self-deprecating humour and keen sense of the absurd keeps this story interesting. Hunter uses words powerfully and poetically to express his personal vision. Refreshingly, he doesn't subscribe to "political correctness" and so we the reader are treated to life as it really is. Hunter found out in 1991 that he was part Huron. He recalls that he was glad to finally be more than a "wannabe".

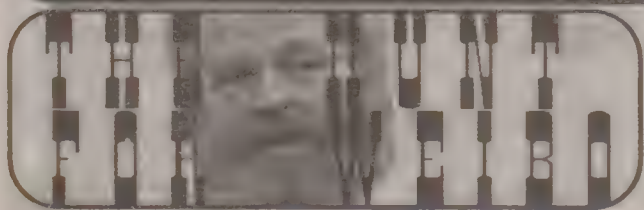
It may be hard for some of us to

Book Review

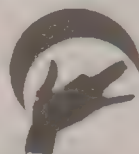
fathom the extent to which Robert Hunter and those like him have shaped Canada and even the world. But, we only need to consider that concepts like "Save the whale" and "Dolphin friendly tuna" were in large part thanks to Greenpeace. In an era that was sending its young men to near certain death in Vietnam and listening to Nixon's lies, men like Robert Hunter were forged. *Red Blood* is both a personal exploration of Hunter's life and a frank reminiscence of the movement which became a part of him.

You can find *Red Blood* at your local library or bookstore.

To win a copy of *FROM THE GARDEN* by Judy Schmitz find the 3 Wolfes scattered throughout Our Voice. The first person to call 426-4001 with the 3 correct locations of Wolfe will win the book. Be careful he is sneaky!



10 voice



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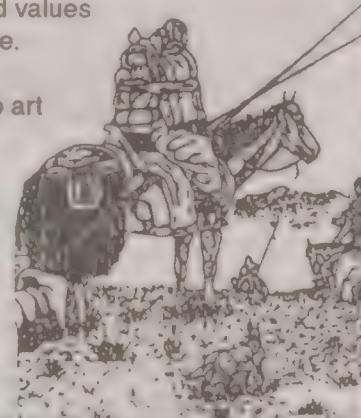
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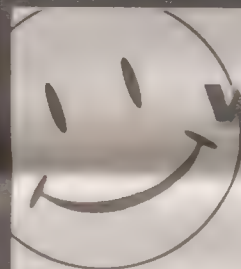


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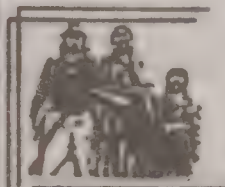
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AN UNCARING POLITICAL WORLD MAKES THE STREET MAN MAD!

Commentary by Reg Taylor

Some examples of the uncaring politicians are the recent closure on Bill 11, allowing American medicine to be introduced into our health care. Under the Free Trade Agreement we are unable to stop this practice and we will, in no time, be subject to the muscle of our American neighbour. This is uncaring practice of two-tier medicine benefiting the rich and providing little medical care for the poor. This was rammed through the Alberta Legislature by Premier Ralph Klein and his cronies, especially his right arm—Steve West. Steve West has held many of the most important Cabinet posts during the Klein administration. Now he's being considered for the post of Treasurer with the potential resignation of Stockwell Day. Mr. Day, as Treasurer of the province, claims fame for his position on eliminating the deficit and debt-load of Alberta. Mr. Day had little to do with this. It was our un-renewable resources of oil and forest products, and the reduction of services on the backs of seniors, who have lost 80% of their benefits since the demise of Premier Lougheed. Many other Albertans solely caused the elimination of our deficit and reduction of the debt. Mr. Day had a chance to fully reinstate our Heritage fund as a real asset for the future generations. He chose instead to use his surplus by putting the oil revenues into the general revenue fund to reimburse his rich backers. Then he asked the people of Alberta to pay for his personal legal affairs.

Mr. West personally, with his privatization mind, has completely and uncaringly destroyed the good civil service of our province in favour of his chosen friends. These friends have replaced many of our civil servants with minimum wage part time people and are receiving huge profits.

Premier Klein has a new record in the book of

Guinness. During his time in the legislature he has introduced more closures than any other governing body in Alberta's history.

Our Prime Minister, under the personal influence of Finance Minister, Paul Martin, has little respect for the people of Canada or people of the world. He has followed the practice of former Prime Minister, Brian Mulroney, showing little respect for our tax dollars. He broke the promise of the elimination of the GST, which more than any other issue re-elected the present Liberal government. Mr. Martin, our Finance Minister, and sole owner of Canada's Steam Ships has registered these ships in a foreign country to avoid the fair taxation on this business while collecting high taxes from the general public.

Minister Jane Stewart, under the pretense of job creation squandered millions with grants to her favourite corporations like the Wal-Mart chain to build a warehouse in North Bay, Ontario to employ 30 part-time minimum wage jobs. This corporation last year was the most profitable corporation in the world. A percentage of this profit from Canada resulted in the bankruptcy of the 200-year-old Eaton's of Canada whom treated both our tax system and it's employees fairly. Wal-Mart has successfully eliminated many of our privately owned small businesses across this nation.

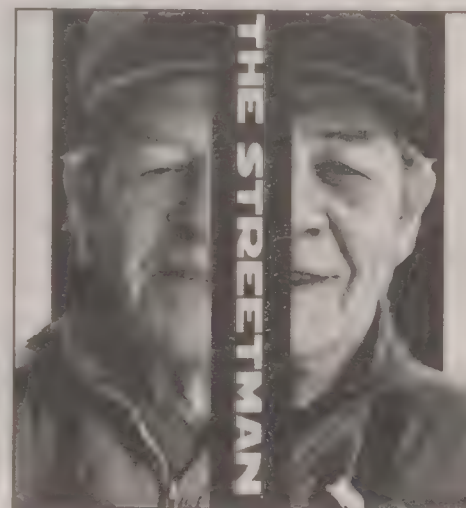
Mr. Clark, former Premier of British Columbia, by his following the order of the big labour organizations of the United States from Cleveland, Ohio and Windsor, Ontario has destroyed the very aim of these labour organizations by plunging the province into a financial crisis.

Mr. Harris of Ontario has little respect for ordinary people and has followed much of the same policy of Mr. Klein and Mr. Martin.

We lost one of our people minded premiers in the province of New Brunswick. Premier Frank McKenna lost faith in the Liberal party when a former Federal Minister — Doug Young, who was defeated in the last federal election, was paid off with part of the Trans Canada Highway between Moncton and River Glade. He introduced a toll system. Frank McKenna resigned.

In Canada where are our Tommy Douglas's, our Stanley Knowles's, our John Diefenbaker's, our Lois St. Laurent's, our Lester B. Pearson's, our Rene Leveque's, our Chief Dan George's, our Peter Lougheed's, our Elijah Harper's. These were caring people very dear to my heart.

OV



NASNA NEWS

Excerpts from Street Papers Across North America

VANCOUVER (CP) - Panhandlers and anti-poverty activists openly defied Vancouver's tough anti-panhandling law Wednesday on trendy Robson Street. The protest and "Pan-In" challenged the legality of the city's bylaw enacted in May 1998. The bylaw bans panhandling between sunset and sunrise. Daytime begging is illegal within 10 metres of a bus stop, liquor store, bank or ATM machine or while sitting down. Violators can be fined up to \$2,000.

Protesters and homeless people charged that city police and private security guards are using the bylaw to abuse their authority.

"The police are using this bylaw to harass and threaten people," said Linda Moreau of End Legislated Poverty. "People have had their things taken from them by the police and not given back to them."

"It's a poor-bashing bylaw directed totally at poor people," she said.

Governments are criminalizing begging while enacting legislation that is creating more poverty, said the National Anti-Poverty Organization position paper on anti-panhandling bylaws.

"A lot of people who are poor can't even get on welfare now," Moreau said.

She said the lack of low-income housing and low welfare rates (\$500 a month) exacerbates the problem.

"The social safety net is basically not there anymore," she said. "People are forced to beg."

Both the National Anti-Poverty Organization and End

Legislated Poverty are challenging the bylaw in the fall in B.C. Supreme Court under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms on the grounds it discriminates against the poor and is a violation of free speech.

Panhandlers "are totally within their legal rights as long as they don't harass or threaten," Moreau said.

CITY COUNCIL OK'S PART OF PANHANDLER CRACKDOWN

Kevin Flynn Denver

A Denver City Council committee on Wednesday held up part of Mayor Wellington Webb's crackdown on beggars and transients, fearing it could become a tool for harassing poor and homeless people.

The public safety committee wants further study on the proposal to ban sitting or sleeping on sidewalks downtown from 7 a.m. to midnight, saying it may be overreaching and cause more problems than it solves.

"I will oppose this in its present form if it goes on to the council," said Councilor Kathleen MacKenzie. "It's just too broad for us to claim that it's to protect the congested areas of downtown."

"Plus the people who are sleeping on our sidewalks aren't likely to have the \$75 or \$100 to pay a fine. I don't want to have to build another jail just for them."

Councilor Ramona Martinez said the law could simply end up moving the problem to other areas, such as South Broadway or East Colfax Avenue. The committee gave initial approval to two other parts of the overall package aimed at improving downtown safety and clean-

liness, including restrictions on panhandling and public fighting.

Committee members got the administration to drop a portion of its proposed anti-panhandling law that would have made it illegal to lie or mislead when asking for a handout.

That would include such things as sitting in a wheelchair when the panhandler isn't handicapped, or holding a sign saying you need gas money when it's really for liquor, or wearing military jackets when not a veteran.

The committee gave initial approval, however, to the broader panhandling restrictions. They would try to curb so-called aggressive panhandling by criminalizing those who stalk, verbally abuse or physically go after their targets.

Panhandling would be illegal within 20 feet of an automated teller machine or a pay phone. Also prohibited would be soliciting from people standing in lines, such as movie crowds, who can't get away. Reynolds questioned the prohibition on all panhandling after dark. It would be illegal from a half-hour after sunset to a half-hour before sunrise.

That means a commuter without bus fare couldn't ask a stranger for a quarter in the midst of a blizzard at 6 p.m. Jan. 7, but could do so at the same hour in bright sunshine July 7.

OV

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voice

10

Poetry

The world is ours

Jon Broomfield.

The world is ours. The immeasurable grace awaits our realization that lies can only separate our unity, that apa-

thy can only defend ignorance and that hope is the essence within us that will draw us towards a world of peace. If we were all to sense our own worth, even a fraction of that song, then perhaps we could put a price on the priceless. In awe of ourselves and the beauty we possess, we would recognize

in others the potential that sleeps and we would call out to them to know what we know, to feel what we feel

and to hold, like a child in our arms, touching all aspects of your heart, the clarity we can no longer deny. It resonates in the truth of those whom we share love with, it flows in the perfection of the tears we cry and it shakes the foundations of a global prison...THE EARTH IS HEAV-

EN but it is diseased with borders and bombs, with inequality and injustice. How odd that we must fight for the courage to fight for freedom but everyday others begin to know we are oppressed. The seed has been planted and it cannot be destroyed for it is love, in action. It reaches out in all directions. It condemns the evil and commits itself to transfor-

mation. It celebrates our virtues and it dances with wisdom holding firm the knowledge Love Shall Win.



Photo: PE de Vos, J.

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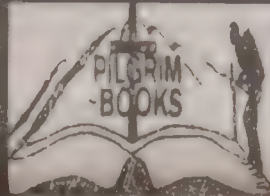
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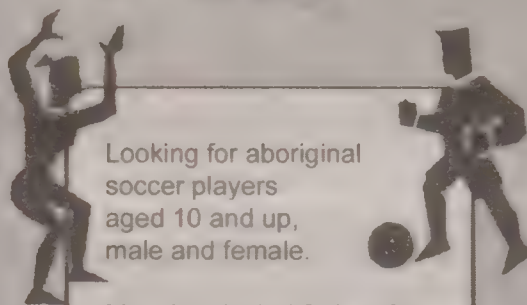


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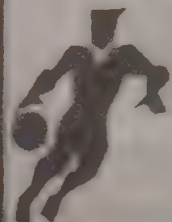


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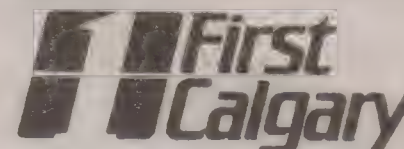
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GEORGE'S BIG ADVENTURE

at the *REAL* human rights conference.

George Haraida

We should promote human rights towards a culture of peace, by lobbying all governments and organizations throughout the world. We need to educate ourselves about our rights. Use the media and other forms of communication to the fullest extent.

The International Society for Peace and Human Rights (ISPHR) is doing their part. They are an Edmonton based non-profit organization established in 1998 honouring the 50th anniversary of United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. The ISPHR conference was held from May 1 - 7, at the University of Alberta. There were representatives from 70 countries and 340 non-governmental organizations.

Speakers presented many issues on human rights and environmental abuses in various parts of the world. There were so many workshops happening at the same time, I could not attend all of them. But I did my best. The following is the rundown on some of the workshops I was fortunate to attend.

ABORIGINAL ISSUES

The main theme was how we can individually and collectively ensure the rights of indigenous people all over the world.

Issues Presented:

- Networking and having direct contact among the minorities all over the world.
- Educating everybody (rich and poor) about human rights and provide them with correct and unbiased information.
- Negotiating with local government and the United Nations to ensure the rights of indigenous people around their own territory and resources.
- Supporting the rights of indigenous schools, cultural centres and create other activities to enhance the values and vision of indigenous people.

THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR

This was basically on how poverty affects human rights globally and personally.

Issues Presented:

- Use media and other forms of networking to communicate poverty issues and the democratic process.
- Demand more government responsibility and accountability for poverty issues.
- Lobby to achieve an equilibrium with the economical environment.
- Give voice to the poor through forming grassroots with pressure groups.
- Construct community responsibility for action on poverty issues.

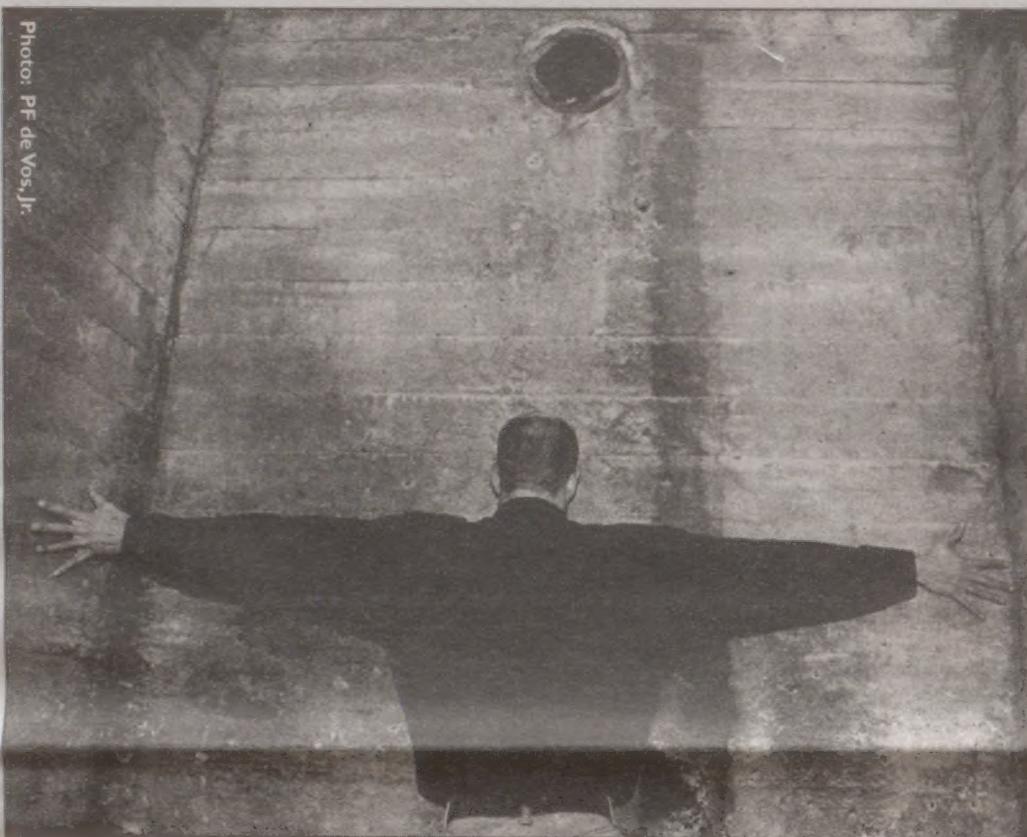
GLOBALIZATION

This dealt with how various trade organizations affect human rights. The trade organizations mentioned were WTO, NAFTA, ITA, and transportation corporations.

Issues Presented:

- Have more social control between WTO and countries.
- Set-up and judicate different types of trade agreements.
- With trade disputes, contest to convert the regulations

Photo: P.F. de Vos, Jr.



on the laws of the trade agreements.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

We need to stop gender discrimination. A proposal was made that all countries make a serious attempt to integrate gender perspectives in all community policies.

Issues Presented:

- Putting pressure on the government.
- Supporting and organizing local groups through institutions such as CIDA- Hold media responsible for the modification of women.
- Educating and networking.
- Creating equality by setting up women's organizations and structures.
- Advocating change of the current political structure by putting pressure on various government organizations.
- Keeping resources up-to-date and making them more attainable to be public.

LABOUR

Labour dealt with creating solidarity and initiating international programs to create a better human rights structure in the labour organization. The proposals given were.

Issues Presented:

- Transfer of technology and education.
- Creation of employment through more funds.
- Labour organizations responding more to human rights.
- More support to small businesses.
- More of a direct voice through media, communication outlets and networking.

THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL

This was very enlightening. Various issues were presented by numerous speakers on Canadian human rights, domestically and internationally, with a tribunal jury presiding. The issues presented were:

- Standing up for indigenous people. Treaties that were signed say that Natives are a separate entity. Government labels Indigenous people in different areas. Indigenous people are forced into jobs and careers not their choice.
- Government that ignoring social issues to human rights.
- Violence and abuse on women. Women do not have the same accessibility to education, work and other things as men have. Foreign women have a lack of language and support from the community. There are a lack of jobs for foreign women, even if they're qualified.
- Non-Canadian caregivers face a lot of abuse from employers because they fear deportation.

-Anti-racism policies have to be imposed to improve relationships and racism.

- Incorporate the international environmental standard.
- International solidarity for labour organizations.

CLOSING DAY

On the closing day, Dr. Raj Pannu-MLA, and MP David Kilgour addressed the conference. Dr. Raj Pannu talked about how the World and Asian Banks affect peace and human rights throughout the world. He also pointed out that there is a growing gap between the rich and poor and we have to unite and organize as one entity, to strive for solidarity within our country as well as internationally.

David Kilgour spoke on how human rights are a human and universal concern. He mentioned that our Charter rights give us choice of religion and government. Also, he spoke on how sexual exploitation is widespread all over the world.

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21

STREET SEEN

Cec Garfin

This past March, a new era of waste management began in Edmonton with the opening of the Composting Facility in Clover Bar. Prior to 1988 all household waste was destined for landfills.

It was financed, built and is operated by TransAlta under a 30-year contract with the City of Edmonton, after which time, the City has the option of taking ownership of the plant. The plant is the only one of its type in all of Canada and 1 of 3 in North America. It is the most modern in all the world.

Dwayne Simmons, the plant manager, who was kind enough to take the time to give this reporter a guided tour of the facility, said, "on a regular basis there are delegations from other cities and countries coming to

Edmonton to look at acquiring a similar facility for their community."

There are many uses for the compost from the plant; including use for gardens and lawns, agriculture for soil supplement and specialty crop production, landscaping and nurseries for plant bed preparation and mulching, backfill for tree planting, outdoor planter mix and new turf and turf renovations, roadside erosion control, forestry recovery, new seeding establishment and mulch for tree planting, sport turfs, construction mix for new golf courses and turf renovation.

OV

Next Month, Street Seen will be replaced by a new monthly feature entitled *Cec on the Town*—reviews of E-Town's most obscure digs.



Waste to
COMPOST

KIND SUPPORTERS

Thank you to the businesses and organisations whose support helps publish this magazine.

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SOLUTIONS TO MAY CROSSWORD:

We're sorry for screwing up the clues in last month's puzzle. Below is the face of our shame...



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Thursday, between 5 and 6 PM on FM88

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- fashion
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T.E. Bissell's
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St. Stephen's Anglican Church

1121-14th Ave. SW Ph: (403) 244-4879
Rector: Brian Pearson

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:

8:00 AM BCP Eucharist

9:15 AM Traditional Eucharist

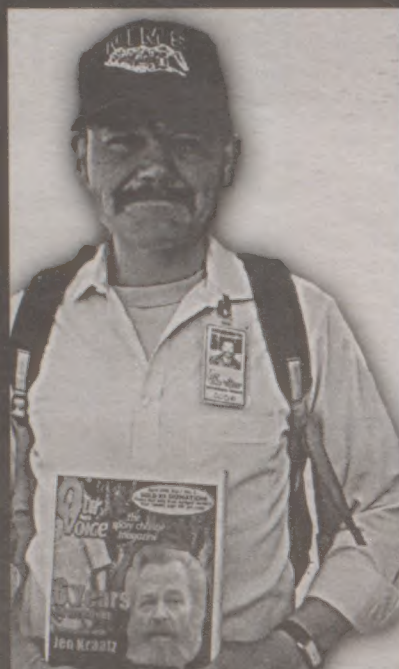
11:00 AM Contemporary Eucharist

St. Stephen's is a supporter of the Inn From the Cold program.

Edmonton's
REAL
Alternative

VUE
Weekly
EDMONTON'S URBAN VOICE

Available FREE at over 1,000 locations
every Thursday



HARVEY LADEROUTE

John Zapantis

Harvey Laderoute started vending Our Voice in April of 1994. Harvey has some words of encouragement to all Our Voice vendors.

"I'd tell them to interact with the people. I'd say, 'Good morning sir, good morning ma'am!' Let the people know you're out there. Don't just stand out there like a statue. This is not a Jehovah's Witness paper. It's an Our Voice street paper."

"It gives me a sense of responsibility, as far as learning how to manage money. I look after my basic needs, such as a bus pass."

Harvey Laderoute's distinctive quality for showing consideration and respect for Our Voice customers entitles our

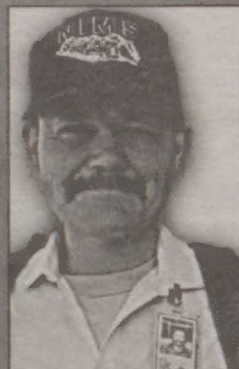
P.R. man the
recognition of
Vendor of the
Month.

VENDOR
of the month

EVERY Authorized

our Voice

vendor has a
BADGE!



V
E
N
D
O
R

Vendor Name _____

Number _____

Authorized by _____

OUR VOICE VENDOR'S CODE

- I will be sober at all times while working.
- I will be polite to all members of the public.
- I will vend only in areas that are authorized.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH



BOB MARVIN

Cec Garfin

Bob was one of two city representatives on the Homelessness Steering Committee. The Committee is made up of 2 provincial and federal representatives plus 2 members of the general public. They are trying

to determine methods to distribute \$753 million of Federal funds allocated to 10 cities over the next 3 years.

Bob has also worked on the Beverly Towne Job Fair. He worked with four women who formed a group called Sewing - Just For You.

He has helped workers who lost their jobs due to the shutting down of the meat plant adjust through education, job searches and retraining.

Bob has devoted a lot of time over the past few years as Chairman of the Community Economic Development Network.

Bob is 46 and is married with 2 daughters. He was born in Toronto and raised in Winnipeg. He came to Edmonton 21 years ago. Bob and his wife are both Social Workers with the City of Edmonton.

Congratulations Bob for all your efforts and continued success in the future.

Every month in Our Voice, we will be featuring someone who has gone the extra kilometre in their lives or in their careers to make a difference in the lives of those who are less fortunate. The Citizen of the Month will receive a dinner for two courtesy of the Garneau Cafe Mosaics on Whyte Avenue.

Cafe Mosaics

Our Voice
Magazine and Cafe
Mosaics'

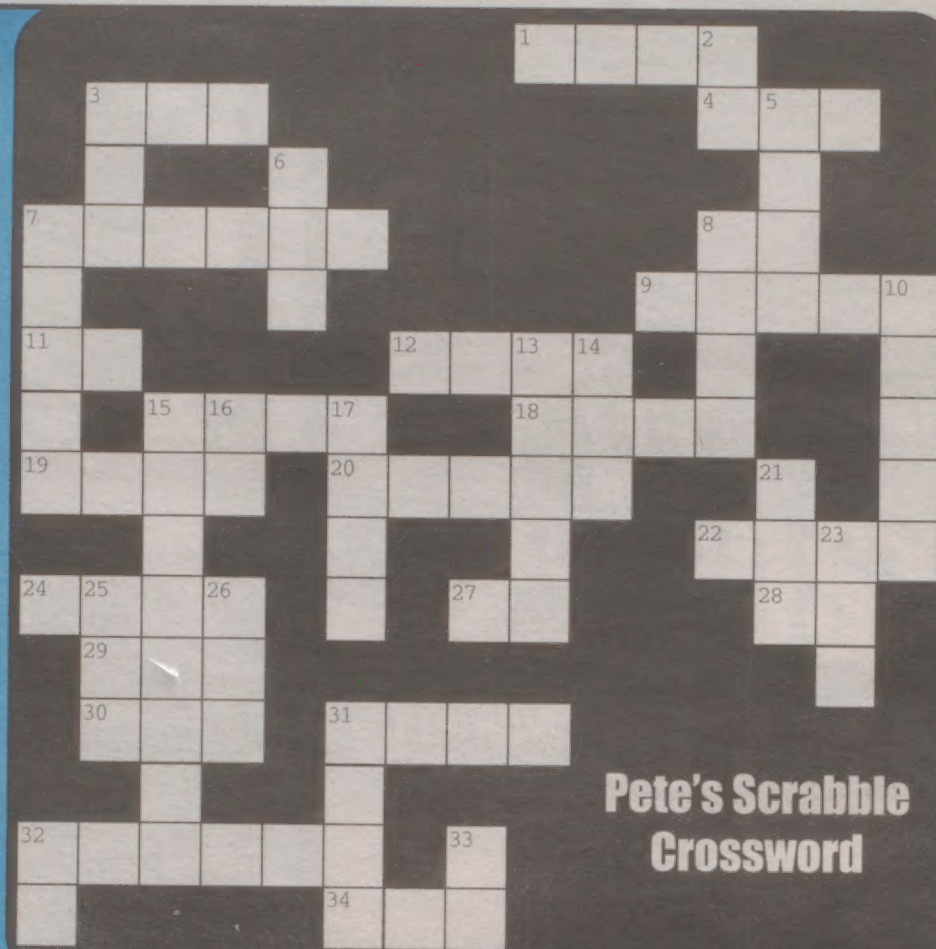
Citizen of the Month

Part of the challenge of producing a magazine is to capture the reader's interest visually. This edition represents a departure from the traditional appearance of Our Voice. Hopefully, it communicates that Our Voice is an exciting and vibrant project. It represents one of those rare venues where freedom of expression and creativity is promoted in whatever form it takes. As we continue to challenge and educate the public, we encourage you to provide us with input and suggestions.

OV

our Voice

23



Pete's Scrabble Crossword



ACROSS

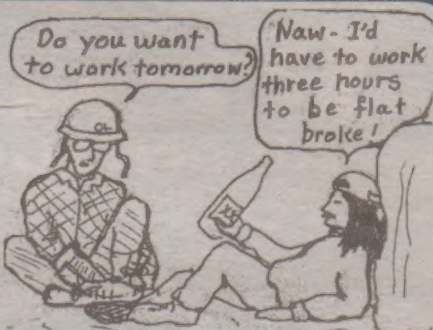
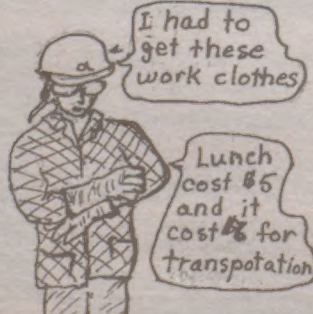
- 1) HOSIERY SHADE
- 3) ____ NEWTON
- 4) ____ SHOOTER
- 7) DIVINED FOR WATER
- 8) MA'S MATE
- 9) THE END
- 11) PA'S MATE
- 12) BACK ALLEY
- 15) DON'T ROCK IT
- 18) DUE
- 19) CELESTIAL LIGHT
- 20) COME TOGETHER
- 22) VERY BLOODY
- 24) MAN OR BOY
- 27) PERSONALITY PART
- 28) SEE 3 DOWN
- 29) POOH'S PAL
- 30) SWINDLE
- 31) THRONE-SITTER
- 32) HAMMERED AWAY AT
- 34) DRINK SLOWLY

DOWN

- 2) NOT THEM
- 3) WITH 28 ACROSS;
BACK AND FORTH
- 5) ____ "THE TERRIBLE"
- 6) AFFIRMATIVE VOTE
- 7) ABODES
- 8) ____ PIPER
- 10) BRITISH TRUCK
- 13) ACCLAIMED
- 14) FEMALE SHEEP
- 15) BIRTHDAY PARTY ESSEN-
TIALS
- 16) THIS ____ THAT
- 17) SONG
- 21) WRITE DOWN QUICKLY
- 23) CAVIAR
- 25) CIRCLE PART
- 26) LONG TIME
- 31) BABY COATS
- 32) EXIST
- 33) NOT DOWN

Soupline Bob

Linda Dumont



The Joys of Childhood

Susan Kerr



SANZAVARIA PLANT

Later



SAME PLANT

Why

